

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018

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

1. On Friday 5 October, I travelled to Mackay and worked in District Office with the District Secretary, Lynette, and attended to district matters and issues.
2. On my way back from a private trip to North Queensland, I again worked with the District Secretary, Lynette, in the District Office in Mackay on Monday 15 October.
3. While in Mackay, I attended a Basic Welfare Course (run by RSL Queensland) on 16/17 October.
4. On Monday 22 October, I attended and addressed a Central Queensland Order of Australia luncheon in Rockhampton.
5. Travelled to Brisbane for District Presidents meeting on Wednesday 24 October and RSL State Board meeting on Thursday 25 October.
6. Travelled to Mackay for District Executive meeting on Saturday 27 October.
7. While in Mackay, with Deputy President, John, I attended the Mackay North State High School, Centenary of ANZAC 2018 Commemorative Tour Presentation Evening on Saturday 27 October.
8. I travelled to Hobart to attend a Mates4Mates Board meeting on Thursday 1 November and meet mates for morning tea on Friday 2 November.
9. Together with other members of the District Executive, attended and hosted the District's Centenary of Armistice Dinner in Mackay on Friday 9 November evening.
10. While in Mackay, attended and chaired the District Council meeting at Marian Sub-Branch.
11. On Remembrance Day, Sunday 11 November, I attended the Emu Park Remembrance Day Commemorative Service and laid a wreath on behalf of the District.

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

Voluntary Hours	169.5
Kilometers Travelled	2005
Nights Away From Home	9

Mackay North State High School Centenary of ANZAC 2018 Presentation Evening

As alluded to earlier, District Deputy President, John Edwards, and myself attended this presentation evening on Saturday 27 October.

The Commemorative Tours to overseas battlefields have now been run by Mike Goodwin OAM, and other teachers at the school for around 20 years.

I can think of no better way to educate the present generation of school children about Australian military history and commemorative aspects of the RSL.

I thank the Marian, Walkerston/ Pleystowe, Mirani, Finch Hatton, Farleigh/Northern Beaches, and Seaforth sub-branches for providing support to this worthy program over so many years.

Centenary of Armistice Dinner in Mackay on Friday 9 November

Around 200 attended the dinner. During the evening, homage was paid to the World War 1 generation of Australians as we commemorated this historic centenary event when the signing of the Armistice ended World War 1.

World War 2 veteran and Rat of Tobruk, Gordon Wallace, gave a rousing key note address while veteran Tony Cook and his band provided entertainment on the night.

I would like to thank:

1. RSL Queensland President, Tony Ferris, and RSL Deputy President, John Strachan OAM, for travelling from Brisbane to attend the event.
2. District Vice President, Phil Luzzi for being the Emcee for the evening and doing such a competent job.
3. District Deputy President, John Edwards, and his small committee of Cameron Dorward, Les Palmer, Ron Cameron, Kevin Cahill, and District Secretary Lynette Phillips for planning and organizing the event.

District Executive Meeting Saturday 27 October

Life Member Nomination

A life member nomination has been received from a sub-branch and the District Executive has recommended the nomination.

Nomination for District Executive 2019

The following positions are up for election at the District AGM at Emerald on Saturday 6 April 2019:

- President
- Vice President(1)

Nominations need to be in writing and received by the District Secretary by Saturday 16 February 2019. Nomination forms are available from the District Secretary.

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 in the afternoon)
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 2 February 2019

State Board Meeting Thursday 24 October 2018

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

In accordance with the Directions Order, the State Board members will as a group undertake a three(3) day governance course on 10 to 12 December and this will finalise most matters outstanding.

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.

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 draft constitution and in early October the document was published on the website and a copy was provided to all sub-branches. RSL sub-branches and RSL

members can now make comment and suggested changes to the new draft constitution via the website and consultations through the districts will now commence.

Sub-Branch Knowledge and Communication Portal

RSL Queensland is developing a portal which will involve a platform SharePoint technology and the District Presidents were briefed about the project.

It is intended that the portal, when developed, will be a single source of information for sub-branches and will contain information on a variety of topics.

The project is now moving from planning to execution phase. There will be a project development team which will have sub-branch representatives. It is planned for project to go live at the end of Quarter 2 in 2019.

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.rslpfhdistrict.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.

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.

The committee is working on a brand refresh which will lead to the design of new advertisements and publicity material.

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 in February 2019.

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 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, 36 members have availed of the program at a cost of \$11,575.55.

LiveLife Alarms Program

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

So far in 2018, 13 alarms have been issued at a cost of \$5,080.

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

District PAWS Coordinator

Phil 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 at Shamrock Hotel

The courses were well attended by sub-branch members and participants seemed to get a lot out of the courses.

A big thank you goes to Phil for planning and organizing these training courses.

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.

District Veterans Welfare Fund

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

To date 17 applications have been approved by the District Executive at a year to date cost of \$74,347.01.

A review of the fund has been undertaken by RSL Queensland. The Fund from here on will be called the District Charitable Objects Fund. Districts will continue to be eligible to receive funding of \$100,000 each year.

The guidelines for the new fund and a new application form have been approved. The guidelines and application form were recently sent to all sub-branches.

From here on, all applications need to be on the new application and be in accordance with the new guidelines.

Further, the District has spent \$4,520 to date out of the \$10,000 budget allocated for Emergency Welfare.

Sub-Branch Support Program

Since the approval of this new program in September 2018, 1 application for \$1,500 has been approved.

As most of you will already know, the commemoration of Remembrance Day on Sunday 11 November was historic as it marked 100 years since the guns on the Western Front fell silent and World War 1 ended.

As I highlighted in my welcome address at the Centenary of Armistice Dinner on Friday evening of 9 November, there has been no greater tragedy in Australia's history than World War 1. It had consumed the young, the very best from all around Australia. It destroyed a generation. Even those who survived were scarred for life. It was one of the most unimaginable losses to our young Australian nation.

I thank all the sub-branches for organizing the Remembrance Day commemorative services in their communities. While it is a time of remembrance, I also hope that it reminds present generations that the World would not be able to survive another modern global conflict on the scale of World War 1 and 2 and we need to promote peaceful settlements to all conflicts.

Stay safe and continue the good work of the League.

Kindest regards

Barry Vains OAM

District President

Centenary of Armistice Dinner 2018







RSLQLD DISTRICT OFFICE

**OFFICE CLOSED
FOR TRAINING
AND THE
FESTIVE
SEASON**

DISTRICT SECRETARY

7th Dec 2018 - 13th Jan 2018

VETERAN SERVICES OFFICER/ADVOCATE

7th Dec 2018 - 21st of Jan 2019

For more immediate attention call

36349444

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE A MESSAGE
TO BE RESPONDED TO ON THEIR RETURN,
CALL

Lynette - 49574165 or Tracey - 31283275



**MACKAY MILITARY FAMILY
CONNECT**

CHRISTMAS PARTY

PLEASE BRING AN ITEM OF NON
PERISHABLE FOOD TO BE DONATED TO
A LOCAL FAMILY IN NEED.

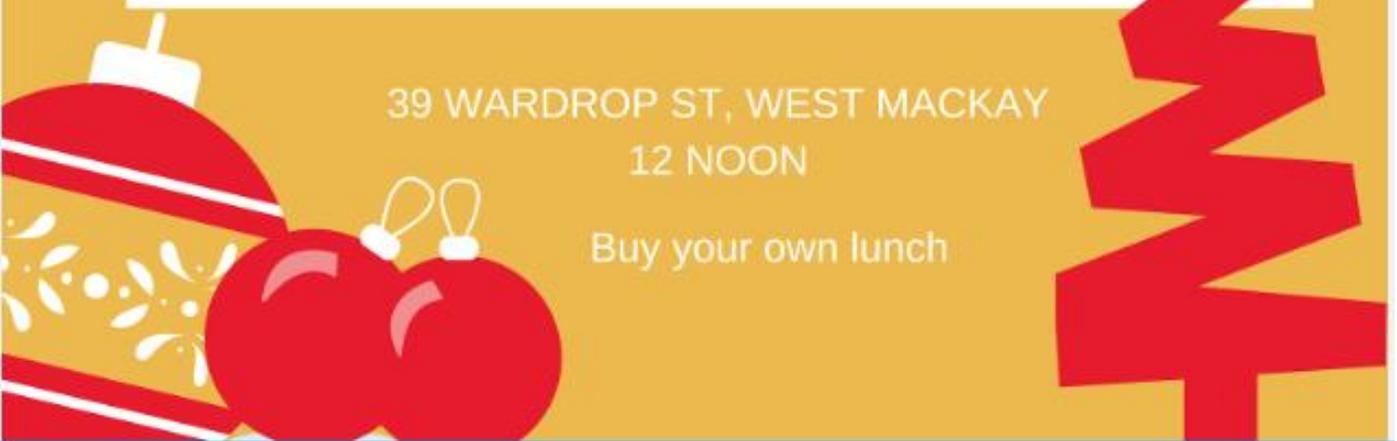
NOVEMBER 27TH, 2018

SOUTHS SUBURBAN BOWLS CLUB

RSVP - TO HAYLEY 0410111285 OR TRACEY

0448943604

BY 23RD NOV



39 WARDROP ST, WEST MACKAY

12 NOON

Buy your own lunch