

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

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

1. On Thursday 9 May, I participated in a special RSL QLD Board meeting from home via SKYPE.
2. On Friday 10 May, I collected State President, Tony Ferris, from the Emerald Airport and escorted him on visits to four sub-branches over two days.
3. On Thursday 16 May, together with two veterans, I travelled to Wowan to attend the funeral of Vietnam Veteran, Graham(Doc) Bell.
4. On Sunday 19 May, I attended the AGM of the Yeppoon Sub-Branch and also visited the Emu Park Sub-Branch.
5. I travelled to Brisbane to attend a District Presidents' meeting and RSL QLD Board meeting on Wednesday 22 May and Thursday 23 May respectively.
6. On Tuesday 28 May I attended a meeting with Management Committee of Emu Park RSL to advise them about applying for grant funding.
7. On Wednesday 29 May I attended a meeting of the Emu Park Centenary of ANZAC Memorial Art Work Committee regarding the provision of further Art Work to the memorial.
8. On Thursday 30 May I travelled to Shoalwater Bay training area to attend a Visitor's Day on Friday 31 May to witness the 7th Combat Brigade in training during Exercise DIAMOND SPRINT 19.
9. I travelled to Brisbane to attend and chair an RSL QLD Audit & Risk Committee meeting on Monday 3 June.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics for May 2019

Voluntary Hours	163.5
Kilometers Travelled	1748
Nights Away From Home	4

Distribution of Monthly Newsletter

I have been aware for some time now that the newsletter is not getting out to a large number of members due to various reasons and this has been a concern for me. The newsletter is a very important part of my communication to the membership.

To help alleviate this problem, the District Secretary has compiled an email list of members and we will send future newsletters electronically as well as continue to send to the sub-branches.

Can Sub-Branch Presidents make their members aware of this change and encourage members who do not have their email addresses recorded on MMS to have this done by advising their Sub-Branch Secretary or the District Secretary.

If you don't wish to be on the email list, then please contact the District Secretary to have your name removed.

Road Trip with RSL State President.

As advised earlier, on Friday 10 May, I collected the State President, Tony Ferris, and escorted him on a visit to the following sub-branches over Friday/Saturday as follows:

1. We travelled to Springsure from Emerald Airport and had lunch with Springsure Sub-Branch President, Adrian Wallen.
2. On Friday evening, we dined in Emerald with the President, Noel Mallyon, and members and partners of the Emerald Sub-Branch.
3. On Saturday morning, we travelled to Clermont and had lunch with the President of the Sub-Branch, David Ward, and members at the RSL Club.
4. On Saturday evening, we were guests of the Gemfields Sub-Branch and dined with President, Peter Tulk, and members at the RSL Club.



Tony really enjoyed the hospitality shown by the four sub-branches and was in awe of the work done by the sub-branches on behalf of the League. He asked me to again pass on his thanks for making him feel so welcome.

I thank the Presidents and members of these sub-branches for your co-operation in making these visits by our State President so successful and enjoyable.

DFRDB

The Coalition Parties made a promise in the lead up to the recent Federal Election that they would look at aspects of the Defence DFRDB Scheme. Now that the Government has been re-elected, matter has progressed quickly.

The State Secretary, Scott Denner, has provided the following information in a recent email as follows:

1. He is keen to get the DFRDB questionnaire from the Commonwealth Ombudsman out to as many RSL members and the broader veteran community as possible and RSL Queensland will push through matter on social media channels and

through the RSL Runner.

2. The Ombudsman has requested that the completed questionnaire be emailed back to him in the first instance. However, this may not be possible for all our members. If this is the case, then please post the questionnaire to RSL Queensland, and a batch scan will be done and sent on to the Ombudsman.

3. The Ombudsman requires the responses by 30 June. For those who post them to ANZAC House, RSL Queensland would need them by 20 June.

4. The digital form link is:

http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0034/99763/DFRDB-Questionnaire_fillable.pdf

I know that the DFRDB issue is a hot topic with veterans who are part of the scheme and I urge you to complete questionnaire and get your views across to the Government.

Mackay Memorial Swimming Pool

At last District Council meeting in Emerald, concerns about the retention of the pool by the Mackay Regional Council were raised by the Kuttabul RSL Sub-Branch and discussed at length.

On Friday 26 April, District Deputy President, John Edwards, President of the Kuttabul Sub-Branch, Frosty Mclean, and I met with the Mayor of the Mackay Regional Council, Greg Williamson, and I handed him a letter which conveyed the District's position that the memorial pool should be kept and maintained.

The Mayor advised that the matter is yet to be considered by Council and this will probably happen in June 2019. However, he indicated that it is most likely that the memorial pool will be retained and upgraded. Considerable money is presently being spent on maintenance to the pool.

I presently have no further information in regard to this matter.

Exercise DIAMOND SPRINT 19 at Shoalwater Bay Training Area

RSL State President, Tony Ferris, recently received an invitation from the Commander 7th Combat Brigade, Brigadier A J Hocking, CSC, ADC, to attend a Visitors' Day on 31 May during the training exercise. Tony was unable to attend due to prior commitments and he asked me to attend in his place.

Along with 14 other visitors from other organisations, I was honored to participate. The last time I had been at Shoalwater Bay Training Area was in early 1969 during my army service days. I participated in an exercise in a support role.

During the day I witnessed:



1. A live firing assault by 6 RAR. 6 RAR is now a mobile assault battalion and the soldiers are transported and supported by APC'S.
2. A tank fire 2 live rounds and fire the 50 caliber machine gun with live ammunition.
3. Live firing by an artillery unit, 1 Regiment. I had the opportunity to pull the firing lanyard and set off 2 rounds.
4. A field medical support unit practicing a medical emergency.

I was struck by how things had changed in the training area and how much the Australian Army has changed as well. 7 Brigade showed what a professional unit they are. The leadership style seems to have moved beyond the direct obey orders concept. The role of women is more pronounced in the field and the soldiers are talented and committed. It seems to me that we are in good hands if Australia has to go to war in the future.

I thank Brigadier Hocking and his staff for making this visit so enjoyable and educational.

District Strategic Plan

As you would be aware, the District has hired Geoff Wohlson from Wohlston Consulting to act as a facilitator to develop a Strategic Plan for the District.

I met with Geoff Wohlson for a scoping meeting when I was in Brisbane for the April Board meeting.

Geoff has now been provided with specified information about the District so he can design a survey for submission and completion by District Executive members and the Sub-Branches.

A Planning Day will be held in Mackay on Friday 28 June with the District Executive and any interested parties from the sub-branches are welcome to attend. Please contact me or the District Secretary if you wish to attend the Planning Day.

Next District Executive Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 29 June 2019.

District Council Meeting for the Remainder of 2019

20.07.2019 St. Helens(St Helens Sub-Branch as host) – Please advise District Secretary of Accommodation requirements ASAP

21.09.2019 Rockhampton(Combined Services Sub-Branch as host)

16.11.2019 Mackay(Mackay Sub-Branch as host)

Centenary of Armistice Dinner Commemorative Booklet

To those who attended the dinner and have not collected their booklet, please contact the District Secretary, Phil Luzzi, or I, as appropriate.

State Board Meeting

A meeting was held on Thursday 23 May 2019.

2019 State AGM in Brisbane 21/22 June

Registration for the State AGM has now closed.

Delegates will be provided with their travel and accommodation details in the near future.

Brand Refresh

A presentation on Brand Refresh took place at the Council meeting at Emu Park in February 2019.

The new logo for the District and sub-branches was available from 4 March and if you wished to use the updated logo you needed to sign the Logo Use Agreement. Further, each sub-branch was allocated an \$800 budget with State Marketing to transition to the new logo and this ran out on 31 May 2019.

I am pleased to advise that the deadline of the 31 May has now been extended to 30 June 2019. A number of sub-branches have signed the Logo Use Agreement and availed of the allocated budget.

I urge those sub-branches who have not, to attend to the matter ASAP as no further extension will be provided by RSL Queensland Marketing.

Nomination & Remuneration Committee

The Board has disbanded the Remuneration Committee and reformed it as above. The new membership of the committee will be appointed on a skills basis. This committee will be responsible for calling and reviewing nominations for the new skills based Board if the new constitution is adopted by the membership in June this year.

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 identified some breaches of obligations under the ACNC Legislation in RSL Queensland's governance and issued a Directions Notice. The Directions Notice compelled 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.

The Board and Management of RSL Queensland have attended to these directions matters ahead of time and last month the ACNC revoked the Directions Order.

New State Constitution

Regrettably, the draft new constitution put to the AGM in Cairns in 2018 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.

After reviewing the comments on the 1st draft posted on the website up to 31 December 2018, the Project Team has now finalized a new draft of the constitution and together with the new by-laws, are posted on the website.

The revised constitution has also been forwarded in an electronic form to all sub-branches by the District Secretary.

This new draft constitution will be the version that members will vote on at the 2019 AGM in June this year. So it is very important that document is read and seriously considered by each sub-branch so the delegate can vote in accordance with sub-branch wishes.

Sub-Branch Knowledge and Communication Portal

RSL Queensland is developing a portal which will involve a sharepoint technology platform and the District Presidents have been 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 in the development phase. It is planned for project to go live at the end of 2019.

A presentation was made by State Branch staff at the District Council meeting in Emerald on the 6 April.

INTERFET 20th Anniversary

Veterans Care have asked RSLQ whether they would like to sponsor a number of veterans across Queensland (12 nominally) to attend a commemorative activity in Timor Leste, between the 18-22 September 2019.

The proposed costs are \$3,000 per veteran and RSL State will fund a veteran from each District.

Further details have now been received from State Branch. The District Secretary will contact those veterans who advised expressions of interest as an application form needs to be completed and submitted.

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.

Sub-Branch Board Governance

I refer to Compliance & Governance Training provided by the Finance & Compliance Manager RSL QLD, Audrey Dawson, at the Emu Park District Council meeting held on Saturday 16 February this year.

I remind sub-branches that members of sub-branch boards need to familiarize themselves with the booklet handed out at the training. Further, they need to undertake the TOBI 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 their 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”.

Dental Health Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2019. The subsidy amount is limited to \$1,000 per member per year. 15 applications at a cost of \$5,121 have been approved for the year.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and will continue in 2019. 4 new alarms have been issued and the renewal of 5 alarms has taken place at a cost of \$ 1010.00 for the year.

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

District PAWS Coordinator

Phil went to Brisbane and met with State Veterans Service personnel in late 2018 with the view to planning events for volunteer welfare and pension officers in the District for 2019.

General Welfare Officer courses will be held again during 2019 and sub-branches are asked to nominate people to undertake the course.

Donations to Mates4Mates

The District made a donation of \$5,000 to Mates4Mates in accordance with the 2019 District Budget approved at the AGM.

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.

Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF)

The District made a donation of \$5,000 to GMRF in accordance with the 2019 District Budget approved at the AGM.

The CEO of GMRF gave a presentation to sub-branch delegates at District Council meeting in Emu Park in February 2019. The Foundation is undertaking very important research into veteran matters such as a Veterans Transition Study.

Sub-branches are encouraged to consider donating to GMRF if they are in a position to do so as it would be worthy welfare spending.

District Charitable Objects Fund

A further \$100,000 of funds has been allocated to the District for 2019.

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 have been sent to all sub-branches. Please note that applications are limited to a maximum amount of \$10,000 and applications cannot be retrospective.

All applications need to be on the new application and be in accordance with the new guidelines. Sub-branches need to ensure they familiarize themselves with these documents before an application is made.

The District Executive has approved two applications at a cost of \$11,000 so far this year.

Sub-Branch Support Program

Funding is available in 2019 through this program for those sub-branches in need.

Two applications at a cost of \$1920 have been approved so far this year.

Please refer to program policy and guidelines. An application needs to be made on application form.

2018 Cadet Funding

State Branch will again provide cadet funding (\$27,000) for the 2019 year.

The District Secretary has advised sub-branches of the timetable for submissions to be made by Friday 21 June and sub-branches are encouraged to liaise with the Cadet Units in your area and get the submissions in.

Emergency Welfare

A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated for 2019. \$400 has been expended so far this year.

Lynette has advised me that 16 of PFH sub-branches have nominated for the State AGM later this month. Again I ask you to consider seriously your vote for the new constitution. RSL Queensland is a large company with over a \$100 million annual turnover. Over the years the Board has had to attract skilled management personnel to run the organization and it follows that we need a skills based Board to oversee operations and set the strategic direction of the League

Thanks for keeping up 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 Ye...
2428799	Niall	McCall	28/01/1951	29/05/2019	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
2407739	Arthur	Rouse	20/04/1922	27/05/2019	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1019733	Clifford	Poole	22/03/1933	3/05/2019	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	SM2011
1017539	Robert	Leicht	8/08/1933	1/05/2019	Rockhampton Combined Services Sub...	SMLIFE
1501762	Leslie	Keeble	15/09/1936	25/04/2019	St Helens Sub Branch	SM2019