

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019

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

1. On Tuesday 2 July at Sarina, together with Audrey Dawson and Surj Samarai from the State Branch Sub-Branch Compliance Team, and Cameron Bradley from PKF Consultancy, we met with the Board of the Sarina RSL Sub-Branch to discuss matters relating to the operation of their Club.
2. I travelled to Brisbane on Thursday 4 July to attend a Mates4Mates Board meeting.
3. While in Brisbane, I took the opportunity to meet with the new RSL Queensland CEO, Melanie Wilson, and the new Risk & Compliance Manager, Rebecca Hales on Friday 5 July.
4. On Sunday 7 July, together with District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, we attended a Memorial Service at St Christopher's Chapel at Nerimbera.
5. On Monday 8 July, together with District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, we attended the funeral of Kingsford Cole and I conducted an RSL Poppy Service.
6. On Tuesday 16 July I travelled to Rockhampton to meet with RSL QLD VSO personnel, Caroline and Jill, and met new Service Delivery Manager (Veteran Services), Graeme Alley who was visiting from Brisbane.
7. On Thursday 18 July, I attended a meeting called by the Livingstone Council at St. Christopher's Chapel to discuss a long term plan for the maintenance of the chapel and the grounds.
8. On Saturday 20 July, I travelled to St Helens to attend and chair a District Council meeting
9. While in the Mackay area, I attended the Dedication of a Memorial Wall Service at the Marian Sub-Branch memorial precinct.
10. I met with the State Member for Keppell, Brittany Lauga, to discuss funding opportunities for St. Christopher's Chapel.
11. I travelled to Brisbane to attend District Presidents' meeting and State Board meeting on 24 and 25 July respectively.
12. I travelled to Mackay on Saturday 27 July for District Life Members Lunch.

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

Voluntary Hours	185.0
Kilometers Travelled	3055
Nights Away From Home	7

Dedication of Marian Sub-Branch Memorial Wall

As alluded to earlier, I had the honor of attending the Dedication Service of Memorial Wall at Marian on Sunday 21 July. The new State Vice President, Bill Whitburn OAM was the special guest for the day.

The service was very moving, well planned, and run. I would like to thank Sub-Branch President, John Edwards, and his members for showing the initiative to enhance the memorial precinct area at Marian by adding this Memorial Wall.

I thank Bill and new RSL North Queensland District President, Garry Player, for giving their time to attend the service.

Life Members Lunch

The District Executive hosted the annual Life Members Lunch in Mackay on Saturday 27 July and 9 Life Members attended.

Our special guest for the lunch was RSL Queensland State President, Tony Ferris.

It was a most enjoyable lunch and Tony presented a 50 Year Membership Certificate to Life Member, Kevin Plumb. I congratulate Kevin on reaching this milestone and thank him for his dedicated service to the League over this time.

However, I was ambushed at the lunch as Tony presented me with Life Membership of the RSL. I thank Tony, Roy Cunneen, and Phil Luzzi for their kind words about me on the day.

I also thank Tony for so freely giving his time to be with us for the lunch. I sincerely thank District Secretary, Lynette Phillips, for planning and organizing a very successful lunch.

Distribution of Monthly Newsletter

The District Secretary has compiled an email list of members and we will send newsletters electronically to these members 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.

Mackay Memorial Swimming Pool

At the last District Council meeting in Emerald in April, 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 spoke to the Mayor at the dedication of the Memorial Wall at Marion on Sunday 21 July and he told me that the Council was to consider the matter at a meeting on Wednesday 24 July. However, I have been advised that the matter was deferred.

District Strategic Plan

As you would be aware, the District engaged 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 was provided with specified information about the District and he designed a survey which was forwarded to the District Executive and the sub-branches for completion. There were 18 responses to the survey and the information was collated and submitted at the Planning Day held in Mackay on Friday 28 June.

The Planning Day was very successful.

Geoff has now compiled a draft Strategic Plan and the document has been reviewed by the District Executive.

The Strategic Plan document has now been sent to the Sub-Branches for review and comment by the 23 August. The final document will be presented to the District Council meeting in September this year for approval.

District Council Meeting Saturday 20 July 2019

I would like to thank the President of St. Helens Sub-Branch, Peter Wright, and his members for hosting the meeting and making us feel so welcome. I also thank RSL Queensland Vice President, Bill Whitburn OAM, and new North Queensland District President, Garry Player, for being our special guests.

Cadet Funding

The District Executive considered the applications at recent meeting and a recommendation on the allocation of the funding was presented and approved at District Council meeting.

The District Secretary has forwarded the relative approved funds to the Sub-Branches for forwarding on to the cadet units.

Sub-Branches are reminded that an acquittal form needs to be completed by the Sub-Branches and returned to the District Secretary by November this year.

Defibrillators

You may recall that the District provided defibrillators to a number of sub-branches last year from the Charitable Objects Fund.

The District Executive is prepared to provide the same to those sub-branches who missed out. Can you please advise District Secretary, Lynette, if your sub-branch wishes to avail of this offer.

2020 District AGM Date

You may recall that the date was set for 3/4 April next year at the AGM.

I have been asked by a number of District Presidents whether we would consider changing the date of our AGM and the date proposed is 27/28 March.

This change was approved at the Council meeting.

General Welfare Course

District PAWS Coordinator, Phil Luzzi, has arranged for RSL State to run a General Welfare Course in Mackay at the Shamrock Hotel on 22/23 October 2019.

15 people have already expressed interest in participating and nominations need to be confirmed by 26 September 2019.

RSL State will meet all travel, accommodation, and meal costs for those attending the course.

Will Sub-Branches please communicate these details to your members.

The next Council meeting will be held on Saturday 21 September 2019 in Rockhampton. The RSL Queensland State President, Tony Ferris, will attend the meeting with the new RSL Queensland CEO, Melanie Wilson.

District Council Meeting for the Remainder of 2019

21.09.2019	Rockhampton(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 25 July 2019

2019 State AGM

A draft copy of the minutes of the meeting has now been sent out to sub-branches for comment.

Further, a recording of the AGM and Congress has been placed on the RSL Queensland website.

In some Sub-Branch cases, at the last minute, their delegate was unable to attend the AGM meeting and it was ruled that the Alternate Delegate could not vote in their place unless in the interim the Sub-Branch had passed a motion to approve such.

In future, to overcome this problem, the Company Secretary has recommended that Sub-Branches at their 2020 AGM pass the following resolution:

“Resolved that [person x] be appointed as the Sub-Branch delegate to the State AGM and, in the event [person x] is unable to attend or vote, that [person y] be appointed as the Sub-Branch Delegate.”

2020 State AGM

2020 AGM will be held in Brisbane on 26/27 June 2020. Venue will be the same as for the 2019 AGM.

New State Constitution

Now that the new constitution has failed to pass two years in a row, the State Board is now considering its position.

The option of conducting a postal vote is being investigated. The Board will determine what will be done at the August Board meeting.

Sub-Branch Knowledge and Communication Portal

RSL Queensland is developing a portal which will involve a sharepoint technology platform.

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 to delegates at the April District Council meeting in Emerald.

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.

From those sub-branch members who applied to attend, the District Executive nominated Dan Peters from Walkerston/Pleystowe Sub-Branch to attend as the PFH representative.

Membership

Sub-Branch Presidents are asked to review their membership lists to ensure that:

1. There are no members who meet the criteria for life membership and are worthy of nomination by the Sub-Branch.
2. There are no members entitled to a 50 Year Membership Certificate as nomination is not automatic and need to be submitted through District by the Sub-Branch.

If a Sub-Branch has eligible members, then I urge you to take the necessary steps to put the members forward.

On Going Matters and Reminders

Correspondence to State

Some sub-branches are sending correspondence to State Branch directly and it is not getting to the appropriate people. Any correspondence that goes to State Branch should be directed to the Company Secretary, Leah Coogans, with a copy to Board Administrative Secretary, Mandy Bryant.

You are reminded that correspondence should be sent through the District and if you are sending emails to State Branch direct, can you please copy in the District Secretary.

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. 21 applications at a cost of \$7,913 have been approved for the year.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2019. 5 new alarms have been issued and the renewal of 11 alarms has taken place at a cost of \$ 1,675 for the year.

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

District PAWS Coordinator

Refer to details provided under District Council meeting report earlier.

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.

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 was undertaken by RSL Queensland in late 2018. The Fund is now 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-branches are encouraged to come up with worthy projects and apply for funding.

Sub-Branch Support Program

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

Four applications at a cost of \$3,600 have been approved so far this year.

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

2019 Cadet Funding

Refer to District Council meeting report earlier.

Emergency Welfare

A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated for 2019. \$615.55 has been expended so far this year.

As reported earlier I was pleasantly surprised at the District’s Life members’ Lunch when RSL State President, Tony Ferris, presented me with Life Membership of the RSL.

For me it has been an honor and privilege to be a member of the RSL. However, to be awarded Life Membership of such an iconic organization is so gratifying. Along with my OAM, the award will be highly prized and valued by me for the rest of my life.

I thank all the members who have contacted me with their congratulations and conveyed their kind sentiments.

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
1538696	Kingsford	Cole	16/06/1928	28/06/2019	Capricornia & Rockhampt...
1531126	Jack	Livingston	5/04/1923	19/06/2019	Capricornia & Rockhampt...

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHAPEL



DEDICATION MEMORIAL WALL, MARIAN



