

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

July 2019

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

1. On Friday 7 June, together with RSL QLD CFO, I met with the Board of the Sarina RSL Sub-Branch to discuss matters relating to the operation of their Club.
2. On Sunday 9 June, together with District Deputy President, John Edwards, I attended a general meeting of the Mackay Sub-Branch.
3. On Sunday 16 June, I attended a general meeting of the Emu Park RSL.
4. I travelled to Brisbane to attend the State AGM on Friday 21/Saturday 22 June.
5. While in Brisbane, I attended the District Presidents' meeting and State Board meeting on Monday 24 June.
6. I travelled to Mackay to participate in a District Strategic Planning Day on Friday 28 June.
7. While in Mackay, I attended and chaired a District Executive meeting on Saturday 29 June.
8. On Sunday 30 June I attended a Memorial Service for World War 2 veteran Arthur Rouse and conducted a Poppy Service.

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

Voluntary Hours	170.0
Kilometers Travelled	1799
Nights Away From Home	10

2019 Queens' Birthday Honors List

It was pleasing to note that two of the District's RSL members were recognized in the Queen's Birthday Honors List. Both received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division.

Alan (Jack) James Parr OAM received his award for service to veterans. Jack is a member of the Emu Park RSL Sub-Branch and saw service in Vietnam with 1 RAR during the Battle for Coral/Balmoral. He devoted much time and effort to the battle being recognized for what it was and was instrumental in the battalion being awarded a Unit Citation for Gallantry in 2018.

John Zimmermann OAM received his award for service to youth. John is a member of the Finch Hatton RSL Sub-Branch and has been involved with the 122 Army Cadets in Mackay since 1981 and in more recent times as their Commanding Officer.

I am sure you all join with me in congratulating Jack and John on being honored by their country with this prestigious award.

Distribution of Monthly Newsletter

The District Secretary has compiled an email list of members and we will send 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.

Mackay Memorial Swimming Pool

At 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 presently have no information as to whether the Council has considered the matter.

District Strategic Plan

As you would be aware, the District hired Geoff Wohlson from Wohlson 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 Executives 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 will now do up a draft Strategic Plan for review by the District Executive. It is planned to present the Strategic plan to the District Council meeting in September this year.

2019 State AGM

A very successful AGM was held on Friday 21/Saturday 22 June in Brisbane.

The use of electronic voting machines sped up proceedings and made for a very efficient AGM.

I am pleased to announce that Bill Whitburn OAM was elected Queensland Vice President in place of Ewan Cameron who did not seek re-election.

I congratulate Bill on his election and thank Ewan for all the work he did while he was in the position. Bill will be attending our District Council meeting on Saturday 20 July and delegates will get a chance to meet him.

However, it was very disappointing for me that the New Constitution was not approved with only 66.34% approval when 66.66%(2/3rds) was required. I thank the vast majority of PFH sub-branches for supporting the constitution.

Dedication of Marian Sub-Branch Memorial Wall

The dedication of the Memorial Wall at Marion (2 ANZAC Place, Blackmur Street) will take place on Sunday 21 July at 11am. RSVP Sunday 14 July.

The date has been set for the same weekend as the District Council meeting at St. Helens (Saturday 20 July) and delegates are invited and encouraged to attend.

District Executive Meeting Saturday 29 June 2019

Cadet Funding

The District Executive considered the applications at the meeting and a recommendation on the allocation of the funding will be presented to the Council meeting on Saturday 20 July.

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 AGM date was set for 3/4 April next year.

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.

The Gemfields Sub-Branch will host the AGM and the date will not be changed unless it suits that sub-branch. Matter will be decided at next Council meeting on Saturday 20 July.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 24 August 2019. New State Vice-President, Bill Whitburn AOM, will be our guest at the Council meeting and delegates will get a chance to meet him. Further, the new District President for North Queensland, Garry Player, will also be our guest.

District Council Meeting for the Remainder of 2019

20.07.2019	St. Helens(St Helens Sub-Branch as host)
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 Monday 24 June 2019

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 sub branches wished to use the updated logo they 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.

The deadline of the 31 May was extended to 30 June 2019. Deadline has now passed and only two sub-branches in the District failed to sign up to the Logo Use Agreement.

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 to be investigated.

Sub-Branch Knowledge and Information Portal (SKIP)

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 AGM.

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.

The District Executive has now received applications from veterans and an announcement on the selected veteran will be made at the Council meeting on Saturday 20 July.

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. 19 applications at a cost of \$6,713 have been approved for the year.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2019. 4 new alarms have been issued and the renewal of 10 alarms has taken place at a cost of \$ 1,585 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 is planning to run General Welfare Officer courses again this year in October 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.

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-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.

Two applications at a cost of \$2,080 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 (\$26,726) for the 2019 year.

Applications through the sub-branches have been received and reviewed by the District Executive. The approval of applications will take place at District Council meeting on 20 July.

Emergency Welfare

A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated for 2019. \$636 has been expended so far this year.

As many of you will be aware, I have been a strong advocate of RSL Queensland strengthening its governance by moving to a skills based Board. It is also a strong belief of mine that the RSL in Queensland needs to change if it is to govern and manage an organization with a turnover of \$130million a year and meet the challenges of the 21 Century.

It is true that I was very disappointed when the new constitution failed yet again to receive the 2/3rd majority required for its ratification and I seriously considered whether I wished to remain on the Board of RSL Queensland.

However, I came to the conclusion that I would remain on the Board for the following reasons:

1. My resignation had the potential to hurt our District as there is a constitutional argument that if I left the Board of RSL Queensland, I may have been compelled to stand down from being your District President.
2. Further, I know that the vast majority of sub-branches in the PFH District support the new State constitution and there is now a momentum from the majority of sub-branches across the Queensland for constitutional change. I believe the move to a skills based Board at State level is inevitable and only a matter of time.
3. Also, I am not a quitter and I am now determined to stand and fight for change.

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	Deceased Date ▼	Owner
1538696	Kingsford	Cole	28/06/2019	Capricornia & Rockhampt...
1531126	Jack	Livingston	19/06/2019	Capricornia & Rockhampt...

RSLQ State Congress

