

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

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

1. Together with District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, I travelled to the Gemfields for the AGM of the Gemfields Sub Branch on Saturday 1 May.
2. On Sunday 2 May, I travelled to Mackay to attend with District Deputy President, John Edwards, a Toni Childs Concert which was in support of the Mackay Sub Branch establishing an RSL Club in Mackay.
3. On Tuesday 4 May, I participated in and chaired a special RSLQ Audit & Risk Committee meeting via TEAMS.
4. I travelled to Mackay to attend and chair a District Council meeting at the Farview Tavern in Farleigh on Saturday 8 May.
5. On Thursday 13 May, I guided students and teachers from the School of District Education around the Emu Park Centenary of ANZAC Memorial.
6. On Friday 14 May, I participated in a special RSLQ Investment Committee meeting via TEAMS.
7. On Monday 17 May, I participated in and chaired a special RSLQ Audit & Risk Committee meeting via TEAMS.
8. On Wednesday 19 May, I participated in a TEAMS catch-up monthly meeting with General Manager, Membership & Network, Lisa McIlroy.
9. I attended the funeral of veteran, Bill Nord, in Rockhampton, on Friday 21 May.
10. I travelled to Mackay on Saturday 22 May to attend a commemorative service at Half Tide Beach, Hay Point, for the naming of the Half Tide Beach Memorial Park and the dedication of a Commemorative Wall.
11. I travelled to Brisbane to attend a Media Refresher Course on Tuesday 25 May, a District Presidents' meeting on Wednesday 26 May, and a RSLQ Board meeting on Thursday 27 May.
12. On Monday 31 May, participated in an RSLQ Board special meeting via Teams.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics

May 2021

Voluntary Hours	166.5
Kilometers Travelled	3321
Nights Away From Home	8

Call for Resignation of RSL National President

At District Council meeting held on Saturday 8 May at the Farview Tavern in Farleigh, the District Council passed a resolution calling for the resignation of the RSL National President, Greg Mellick, following his offensive and insensitive comments made about the grieving mother of an Australian veteran who committed suicide in his email of 23 March 2021.

The motion was passed 12 to nil with two Sub Branches abstaining.

The resolution has been passed on to State Branch and will support a similar resolution passed by the RSL Queensland Board in April.

A copy of the resolution and rationale is available from the District Secretary if members wish to see a copy.

Naming of "THE Half Tide Beach Memorial Park" and Dedication of Memorial Wall

As advised earlier, I was invited to attend and speak at the abovementioned commemoration and dedication service on Saturday 22 May at Hay Point outside Mackay.

The Vice President of RSL Queensland, Bill Whitburn OAM, was also invited to attend and represented State Branch. I thank Bill for giving his time to travel from Townsville for the service.

The Mackay Regional Council Mayor, Greg Williamson, and Mr Keith Payne VC AM and Mrs Flo Payne OAM were also in attendance.

The Hay Point community with the assistance of the Sarina Sub Branch have been conducting an ANZAC Day Dawn Services at Half Tide Beach since the 1970's. Over the years, with the assistance of Hay Point Coal Services and others, a memorial was constructed and now with the dedication of a Memorial Wall, the Mackay Regional Council agreed to name the area "The Half Tide Beach Memorial Park".

I thank Tom Andrews from the Sarina Sub Branch for planning and organizing the service. The arrangement to have the Australian Defence Force Federation Guard attend was a masterpiece and well received.

There was a large attendance of local veterans, RSL members, and Hay Point community members at the service with the highlight being the attendance of Air Force, Navy, and Army cadet unit members and local school children.





Go Beyond Program

On Monday 24 May, Go Beyond, a joint initiative of RSL Queensland and the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF), was launched in Canberra.

Go Beyond:

1. Is a ground-breaking national program that is free and now available to all ex-serving Australians.
2. The program is the outcome of a six-year Service to Civilian Life Study completed by GMRF and proudly funded by RSL Queensland.
3. GMRF's Service to Civilian Life Study and the newly launched Go Beyond program forms part of RSL Queensland's ongoing \$14 million commitment to veterans' mental health initiatives and research.
4. The purpose of the research study was to understand why some veterans transitioned to civilian life easily while others struggled, and to use this knowledge to develop methods to support veterans more effectively.
5. Go Beyond is a self-directed online learning program that can be accessed anywhere in the country by going to <https://gobeyond.org.au>

6. Go Beyond connects veterans with research, information, learning modules, worksheets, practical exercises and recommended ways to move forward.
7. The program's goal is to offer Australian veterans the tools, resources and support needed for a successful and mentally healthy transition to civilian life.

I urge veterans who are currently struggling with their transition to civilian life to check out the website.

Centenary of the Formation of the RAAF Dinner in Rockhampton

The Gracemere Sub Branch hosted a dinner at the Frenchville Club in Rockhampton on the evening of Saturday 22 May to mark this very important occasion in Australia's military history.

The District provided funding of \$10,000 towards the event from the Charitable Objectives Fund.

Unfortunately, I could not attend due to a commitment to attend another event in Mackay and District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, attended and represented the District.

I have seen a number of photographs of the evening and by all reports, the dinner was very successful with around 210 attending.

While there was an organising committee for the event, I would like to single-out and thank Tony Harris from the Gracemere Sub Branch, for his leadership in planning and organizing the event.



Veteran Service Officer Visit to Emerald

As a welfare initiative, the Emerald Sub Branch organized for Rockhampton based State Veteran Services Officer, Niki Debono, to visit Emerald on 17/18 May, to provide RSL wellbeing and compensation services to veterans in the area.

Apparently, around 10 veterans availed of the service.

I thank the Sub Branch for showing such initiative and to Niki for giving her time to travel to Emerald and providing this these important welfare service to our geographically isolated veterans.

Vale – William George Nord

As alluded to earlier, I attended the funeral of Bill Nord in Rockhampton on Friday 21 May.

Bill had over 20 years service in the Navy and lived at Stanage Bay since his discharge from the Navy in 1987.

While Bill was not a member of the RSL, Gracemere Sub Branch member, Tony Harris, conducted an RSL Poppy Service at the funeral.

I thank the Gracemere Sub Branch and Tony for helping Bill's family in this regard.

"Branch Bulletin"

In response to the number of recent communications to Sub Branches from State Branch, the General Manager Membership & Network, Lisa McIlroy, has consulted with the District Presidents and suggested that State Branch provide Sub Branches with a fortnightly "Branch Bulletin".

The District Presidents thought that this was a good idea and the first bulletin was issued in the first week of June. It may still be necessary to issue urgent communications to Sub Branches but the "Branch Bulletin" will streamline communications to the Sub Branches.

The "Branch Bulletins" will be stored in SKIP for access by Sub Branches who may have missed a bulletin or needs to refer back to it.

PFH District Matters

Recent District Meetings

District Executive

Last meeting was held on Friday 16 April.

District Council

The last meeting was held at the Farview Tavern at Farleigh on Saturday 8 May.

14 delegates and 10 co-delegates attended the meeting.

I thank the Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub Branch for hosting the meeting and making everyone so welcome.

Meetings for Remainder of Year

District Executive

Friday 25 June

Friday 27 August

Friday 29 October

District Council

Saturday 17 July at Finch Hatton

Saturday 18 September at Gracemere

Saturday 20 November at Emu Park

Winding up of Sarina Sub Branch

At the AGM of the Sarina Sub Branch held on Saturday 25 July 2020, regrettably members took the hard decision to wind up the Sub Branch due to insolvency matters and this is proceeding.

RSL members in the Sarina area wish to open a new Sub Branch entity once the winding up is attended to and at the September 2020 meeting, the District Council accepted a District Executive recommendation to support and facilitate a request for RSL Queensland consent in principle to establish a new Sub Branch in Sarina.

At the December 2020 meeting, the RSL Queensland Board gave approval in principle for the establishment of a new Sub Branch in Sarina.

I attended a meeting of Sarina RSL members on Sunday 14 February at which a Steering Group was elected to prepare for the establishment of the new Sub Branch.

Decision of court in relation to winding up of Sub Branch/Club is awaited.

Amalgamation of the Two Rockhampton Sub Branches

The Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch has been struggling with its governance since their long term President and Secretary died over two years ago. At the 2020 AGM they were unable to elect a management committee.

The District had previously met with the management committee and outlined their options for survival. The Sub Branch then approached the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch about an amalgamation of the two Sub Branches and both Sub Branches agreed in principle to the proposal.

At September 2020 meeting, the District Council accepted a District Executive recommendation to support and facilitate a request for RSL Queensland consent in principle to a proposed amalgamation of the two sub Branches.

At RSL Queensland Board meeting on Thursday 22 October 2020, approval in principle was given for the two Sub Branches to amalgamate.

The District has worked with State Branch and sought legal advice on behalf of the Sub Branches regarding the way the amalgamation will be effected.

At RSL Queensland Board meeting held on Thursday 22 April, it was decided that:

1. Members of the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch will be given the option to transfer their membership to the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch or a Sub Branch of their choice.
2. The Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch will be wound up and any surplus funds after the wind up, will be transferred to the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch.

Members of the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch have received a communication from State Branch regarding the transfer of their membership to the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch.

State Board Meeting and Related Matters

A meeting was held on Thursday 27 May 2021.

RSL Queensland AGM

The Board has decided to delay the AGM until Wednesday 8/Thursday 9 December. The Board was conscious that it is ideal to hold AGM's on weekends so younger veteran delegates who work can attend. However, accommodation and venue matters dictated this change for 2021.

The meeting will be held in Brisbane and the Board felt that it is desirable that a face-to-face meeting of Sub Branch delegates be held due to the important matters that will need to be considered at the meeting. Constitutional changes in relation to a proposed skills based Board and the proposed Member Value Proposition will be presented at the meeting.

The Board also concluded that the delay would also allow time for most delegates to have had their COVID vaccinations and this will mitigate risks associated with COVID transmissions.

The Board has approval from the ACNC to delay the meeting.

Member Value Proposition (MPV)

A presentation outlining how the proposed MPV is intended to operate was made at District Council meeting held on 27 March.

A hand out was provided to Sub Branch delegates at the meeting and it is envisaged that this hand out was made available to Sub Branch members.

However, further communications in relation to details on the operation of the MPV will roll out to members in the coming months.

If members accept this MVP proposal, then there will need to be changes made to the RSL Queensland constitution and it is intended that these changes will be presented to the 2021 RSL Queensland AGM.

RSLQ Managed IT Service Pilot Project

In terms of the 2021 RSL Queensland Business Plan, RSLQ will roll- out a Managed IT Service Program for the Districts and Sub Branches in 2021 in two stages. Some District Sub Branches will be included in the program before 30 June, and all others by the end of the year.

The program will offer and fund the following services as part of the program to Districts and Sub Branches:

- Laptops .
- Office 365 Licensing.
- Phone Service via Teams.
- Managed Photocopier.
- Managed network and Wi-Fi.
- Teams room based video conferencing camera.

- Access to the State IT Service Delivery Team for end to end support on the above items.



Sub Branch Managed IT Services training session under way in Mackay with members from Farleigh Northern Beaches, Walkerston Pleystowe, Kuttabul and Marian Sub Branches

New State Constitution

The Constitution Sub Committee had finalised a draft of the new constitution in 2020 which used the 2015 constitution as a base and it was posted on the RSLQ website for comment.

The committee will now update the draft constitution as a result of suggested changes provided and members will be given an opportunity to provide further comment.

Committee Chair, Bill Whitburn OAM, is now providing a fortnightly update communication to members and timing of this process will be advised by Bill.

Members can now go to the RSL Queensland Website and view the current draft constitution by going to www.rslqld.org and scroll across to 'About Us' to drop down to 2020 constitution link.

At this stage, it is intended that a proposed new constitution will be presented to members at the 2021 AGM for approval or otherwise.

Sub Branch Discovery Project

Sub Branch Discovery visits have now been made to all the District Sub Branches except a small number who chose not to host a visit.

A Discovery visit will now be made to District on 10/11 June.

By Law 15 - Code of Conduct

At April Board meeting, the new By Law 15 was approved by the Board.

The new By Law was subject to District and Sub Branch feedback.

See new By Law on RSL Queensland website.

On Going Matters and Reminders

RSL Ties and Scarfs

New member kits will now include a tie or scarf as appropriate.

Further, existing members will be provided with an RSL tie or scarf on request.

The District Secretary is now in the process of providing ties and scarfs to the Sub Branches that requested them.

ANZAC Day Merchandise

In early February, a communication went to Sub Branches via the District advising that RSL Queensland will be refunding the Sub Branches for their ANZAC Day merchandise purchase costs.

A claim form was provided with the communication.

Funds are presently being made to those Sub Branches who completed claims.

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.

Dental & Allied Health Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2021.

For 2021 year to date, 34 applications have been approved at a cost of \$14,540.65: Dental \$7,172.85, Hearing \$3,279.55, and Optical \$4,088.25.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2021.

For 2021 year to date, 4 new alarms have been issued and 3 recharged at a cost of \$1,837.00.

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

District PAWS Coordinator

The District PAWS Coordinator, Phil Luzzi is in the process of organising training courses that will provide a First Aid & Defib certificates for Sub Branch members and has contacted a number of Sub Branches.

A course has been held at the Emu Park RSL for 14 participants and was well received.

Donations to Mates4Mates

The District has now made a donation of \$5,000 to Mates4Mates in terms of the approved 2021 Budget.

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.

Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF)

The District has now made a donation of \$5,000 to GMRF in terms of the approved 2021 Budget.

RSL Queensland has donated considerable funds to GMRF over recent years to enable the completion of the Vietnam Veterans PTSD study. Further, State has also funded a study into the transition of servicemen and women from the Defence Force to civilian life.

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 was allocated by RSL Queensland to the District for 2021.

In 2021 year to date, 5 application from the Sub Branches has been approved at a cost of \$14,790.63. When we add in the spending in relation to the District's Dental and Allied Health Subsidy Program and the Live Life Alarms Program, \$31,168.28 of the fund have been spent in 2021 year to date.

The guidelines have now been updated by State Branch so as to include travel costs for ATDP training as this was not clear. The District Secretary will provide Sub Branches with an up to date copy.

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 application form and be in accordance with the guidelines. Sub-Branches need to ensure they familiarize themselves with this documentation before an application is made.

Sub-branches are encouraged to come up with worthy projects and apply for funding. You need to sell your proposal in the application.

Sub-Branch Support Program

Funding will be available in 2021 through this program for those Sub-Branches in financial need.

For 2021 year to date, no applications have been approved.

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

2021 Cadet Funding

State Branch provided funding of \$27,000 for 2021.

Applications will close on Friday 18 June in time for District Executive to review applications and make recommendations to the District Council on Saturday 17 July regarding payments.

Please liaise with the Cadet Units in your area regarding an application on the approved application form.

Emergency Welfare

A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated for Emergency Welfare funding during 2021.

For 2021 year to date, \$544 has been expended.

President's Message for the Month

As a follow up to the Go Beyond Program mentioned earlier, I would like to provide you with some information on the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF):

1. GMRF was launched in May 2005 and took over the activities of the Greenslopes Private Hospital Veterans' Research Foundation and represented a new era for research at the Greenslopes Private Hospital.
2. RSL Queensland has partnered with GMRF since 2012 to enhance the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families.
3. During this time RSL Queensland has provided \$14 million of funding towards veterans' mental health initiatives and research.
4. The first research initiative was the world first PTSD Study in 2012 with the latest being the recently completed Service to Civilian Life Study which forms the basis of the Go Beyond Program.

The relationship RSL Queensland has with GMRF is a strategic partnership as it allows us to produce evidence-based programs and services to assist veterans with their mental health, quality of life, and their relationships with their family and friends.

This is a prime reason why our District has donated \$15,000 to GMRF over the last three years and why I encourage District Sub Branches to consider making a donation as well if they are in a position to do so.

Remember, the District is the linchpin between RSL Queensland and the Sub Branches and we are here to help in any way we can.

Kindest regards

Barry Vains OAM

District President

The Last Post

Membership ID	First Name	Last Name	Owner	Last
2436189	Colin	Creighton	Finch Hatton Sub Branch	SMLIFE