

# RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2021

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

1. Pick up State Fundraising Manager Network, Deborah Scott-Ranson, from Rockhampton Airport on Wednesday 2 June and take to Yeppoon for meeting regarding fundraising and grant applications with Yeppoon, Emu Park, and Gracemere Sub Branches representatives.
2. Travel to Rockhampton on Friday 4 June to get RSL District President's vehicle serviced.
3. On Monday 7 June, I participated in and chaired an RSLQ Audit & Risk Committee meeting via TEAMS.
4. On Tuesday 8 June, I participated in a special RSLQ Board meeting via TEAMS.
5. I travelled to Mackay and participated in a District Discovery meeting on Thursday 10 June and worked in the District Office on Friday 11 June.
6. On Saturday 12 June, I travelled to Gracemere and attended an RSL Poppy Service for a World War 2 veteran.
7. On Tuesday 15 June, I travelled to Brisbane for a Mates4Mates Board meeting.
8. I attended the AGM of the Yeppoon Sub Branch on Sunday 20 June.
9. I travelled to Brisbane to attend Governance training on Monday 21/Tuesday 22 June, a District Presidents' meeting on Wednesday 23 June, and a RSLQ Board meeting on Thursday 24 June.
10. I travelled to Mackay to attend and chair a District Executive meeting on Saturday 26 June.

### District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics

#### June 2021

Voluntary Hours	183.0
Kilometers Travelled	2116
Nights Away from Home	9

### Vietnam Requiem Concert

The concert was held in Canberra on the weekend of the 5/6 June and RSL Queensland met the cost of a Vietnam veteran from each Queensland RSL District to attend.

Noel Mallyon, the President of the Emerald Sub Branch, was selected by the District to attend the concert and with his wife Margaret, travelled to Canberra for the concert.

Noel has reported back that Normie Rowe, Little Pattie, and John Shuman (Redgum and "You were only 19" fame) entertained at the concert and the theme of the Requiem was "rejection & healing".

Noel was very appreciative of the opportunity to attend the concert.



I have asked Noel to present on his attendance at the next District Council meeting at Finch Hatton on Saturday 17 July.



### **RSL Poppy Service for World War 2 Veteran John William Lachlan "Lachie" Dingle**

I attended the Poppy Service conducted by Tony Harrison from the Gracemere Sub Branch on Saturday 12 June at the Gracemere Cemetery.

Lachie Dingle pass away in 1993 and the Sub Branch has maintained a close relationship with Lachie's wife, June, and family. June recently found out about the RSL Poppy Service and given that no poppy service was conducted at Lachie's funeral back in 1993, asked the Sub Branch to conduct a poppy service for Lachie.

I thank the Gracemere Sub Branch, particularly Tony Harris, for this very kind and appropriate gesture.



### **Go Beyond Program**

I advised in my last newsletter that 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.

### **State Fundraising Manager Network – Deborah Scott -Ranson**

As I alluded to earlier, Deborah visited Yeppoon Sub Branch to meet with representatives of the Yeppoon, Emu Park, and Gracemere Sub Branches and provide advice on fundraising activities and grant applications.

The Sub Branches got a lot out of the meeting and I have arranged for Deborah to attend the next District Council meeting at Finch Hatton on Saturday 17 July and make a presentation to Sub Branch delegates.

### **“Branch Bulletin”**

In my last newsletter I advised that 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 June. It may still be necessary to issue urgent communications to Sub Branches at times 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.

### **Veterans Health Week 16/24 October 2021**

Fundraising Manager Network, Deborah Scott-Ranson, recently put out an email to Sub Branches providing details of a DVA Veteran Health Grant for \$720 to assist with the funding of activities during Veterans Health Week.

Sub Branches are encouraged to apply for the grant and plan activities for the week.

### **PFH District Matters**

#### **Recent District Meetings**

##### **District Executive**

The last meeting was held on Saturday 26 June.

##### **District Council**

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

#### **Meetings for Remainder of Year**

##### **District Executive**

Saturday 27 August  
Saturday 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 had been struggling with its governance for some time and at the 2020 AGM they were unable to elect a management committee.

The Sub Branch approached the Capricornia and Rockhampton Region Sub Branch and it was agreed in principle to seek permission from RSL Queensland to amalgamate 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.

The transfer of members of the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch to the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch has now taken place.

Steps are now being taken to wind up the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch.

### **State Board Meeting and Related Matters**

A meeting was held on Thursday 24 June 2021.

#### **RSL Queensland AGM**

The Board has decided to delay the AGM until Wednesday 8/Thursday 9 December and has the approval of the ACNC to do so.

#### **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 was intended that this hand out was made available to Sub Branch members.

Further updates in relation to details on the operation of the MPV are presently rolling out to members.

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 is presently rolling out a Managed IT Service Program to the Districts and Sub Branches in two stages. Some District Sub Branches will have already received their hardware and software with others to be accommodated by the end of the year.

The program offers and funds 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.

#### **New State Constitution**

The Constitution Sub Committee 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 has now updated the draft constitution as a result of suggested changes provided by members and members will now be given an opportunity to provide further comment.

Committee Chair, Bill Whitburn OAM, is now providing a fortnightly update communication to members and the timing for this process has been advised by Bill.

Bill, with an independent member of the Constitution Working Party, will attend a District Council meeting in each District in the lead up to the December AGM to answer questions that the Sub Branches have. Bill and another member of his committee will attend the PFH District Council meeting to be held on Saturday 18 September at the Gracemere Sub Branch.

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

The proposed new constitution will be presented to members at the 2021 AGM for approval or otherwise.

### **District Discovery Visit**

Sub Branch Discovery visits have now been completed.

As alluded to earlier, District Secretary and I participated in a Discovery visit by RSL State personnel on 10 June.

I will participate in a workshop in Brisbane on Tuesday 13 July with all the District Presidents regarding the results of the District Discovery visits.

### **On Going Matters and Reminders**

#### **RSL Ties and Scarfs**

New member will now be provided with a tie or scarf as appropriate.

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

The District Secretary has now provided 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.

Refunds have now been made to Sub Branches who completed claims.

#### **District Website/Facebook**

Website address is [www.rslpfhdistrict.org.au](http://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, 42 applications have been approved at a cost of \$18,365.20: Dental \$8,940.20, Hearing \$3,279.55, and Optical \$6,145.45.

### **LiveLife Alarms Program**

The program is permanent and continues in 2021.

For 2021 year to date, 10 new alarms have been issued and 4 recharged at a cost of \$5,044.00.

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.

Phil is also in discussion with RSL State regarding the running of short Welfare/Wellbeing courses for Sub Branch members.

### **Donations to Mates4Mates**

The District 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 paperwork that needs to be completed and sent with your donation.

### **Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF)**

The District 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, 7 applications from the Sub Branches has been approved at a cost of \$30,225.63. When we add in the spending in relation to the District's Dental and Allied Health Subsidy Program and the Live Life Alarms Program, \$53,634.83 of the fund have been spent in 2021 year to date.

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 is available in 2021 through this program for those Sub-Branches in financial need.

For 2021 year to date, 1 application have been approved at a cost of \$4,750.00.

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 closed 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.

### **Emergency Welfare**

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

For 2021 year to date, \$2,658.84 has been expended helping veterans.

### **President's Message for the Month**

This month I would like to talk about the new draft constitution that will be presented to the members to vote on at the State AGM in December this year.

Firstly, I would like to make it clear, that it is not my intention to tell the Sub Branches whether they should vote for or against the proposed new constitution.

It is essential that the Sub Branch members come together to consider the constitution draft and decide how their Sub Branch delegate should vote. To do this they must be informed. Too often I see that the matter is left to their delegate (often the President) to decide how the Sub Branch will vote.

There are three main issues to consider in the draft constitution:

#### **1. Introduction of a Skills Based Board**

- Do District Presidents who currently automatically become Directors of RSL Queensland have the necessary skills to be a responsible Director of a \$200 million turnover company?
- Is it fair to District Presidents who are volunteers to automatically acquire an additional directorship of RSL Queensland on being elected as a District President. It is also expected that District Presidents also serve on RSL Queensland Sub - Committees. District Presidents' voluntary hours can be between 160 and 200 hours a month?

- Is the current RSL Queensland Board of 13 too large. Academic literature suggests that a board of around 7 members is ideal for decision making. The Board under the new constitution will have 8 members?
- Does the District Presidents' duties conflict with RSL Queensland duties and inhibit RSL Queensland decision making?

## **2. Member Value Proposition (MVP)**

- Is it an option to do nothing given that membership is declining?
- Does RSL Queensland need to make changes to attract new membership?
- Are the proposed new categories of membership appropriate. Eg family members?
- Will the MVP lead to increased membership?
- Do veteran members retain control over the Sub Branch?

## **3. Changes to Objects**

- Changes are necessary for RSL Queensland to obtain Public Benefit Institution (PBI) status.
- Object changes have been reviewed by ACNC and approval of PBI status is subject to these changes being made.
- Changes still align with RSL National constitution.
- RSL Queensland will benefit considerable from PBI status.
- New objects will roll down into Sub Branch constitutions and Sub branches will be able to apply to the ACNC for PBI status.

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