

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021

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

1. On Thursday 1 July, I participated in and chaired a Mates4Mates Risk & Audit meeting via TEAMS.
2. I travelled to Mackay on Friday 2 July, to participate in the presentation of a quilt to Mackay Sub Branch President, Ken Higgins OAM (See story following).
3. I attended the St Christopher's Chapel Commemorative Service at Nerimbera on Sunday 4 July (See story following).
4. On Tuesday 6 July, I participated in and chaired a special RSLQ Audit & Risk Committee meeting via TEAMS.
5. I travelled to Mackay to attend governance training for the District Executive on Thursday 15 July, attend a review of the District Strategic Plan session with the District Executive on Friday 16 July, and attend and chair the District Council meeting at Finch Hatton Sub Branch on Saturday 17 July.
6. I travelled to Brisbane on Thursday 22 July to attend a Future of the League/SeeChange workshop for the District Presidents for the reporting of the results from the District Discovery visits held recently.
7. I travelled to Mackay for a District Life Members luncheon held on Saturday 24 July.
8. I travelled to Brisbane to attend a District Presidents' meeting on Wednesday 28 July, a RSLQ Board meeting on Thursday 29 July, and a RSLQ Investment Committee meeting on Friday 30 July.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics

July 2021

Voluntary Hours	196.5
Kilometers Travelled	2831
Nights Away from Home	10

Welfare Support Officer Training

With the support of the Veteran Services Regional Coordinator, Peter Kennedy, and Mackay Veteran Services Officer, Tracey Victor, a Welfare Support Officer Training Course was held on Wednesday evening of 30 June for Sub Branch members in the Mackay region.

The course ran for 4 hours and was well received by the 12 Sub Branch members who attended.

The District intends to run the course in other areas of the District so Sub Branch members are trained to provide welfare services to veterans within the Sub Branch's area of operation.



St Christopher's Chapel Commemorative Service Sunday 4 July 2021

Each year the Livingstone Shire Council organises and conducts a memorial service at St. Christopher's Chapel at Nerimbera near Rockhampton on the Sunday closest to American Independence Day.

This little bush chapel was built by American servicemen during World War 2 as a place for reflection and prayer for American servicemen based in the area and is the only chapel built by the servicemen during the war that remains today.

I was honoured to be invited to give the address at the service and speak about the military alliance that has existed between our two countries for more than a 100 years and the friendly relationship that has developed between the people of our countries over this time.





Presentation of Quilt to President of Mackay Sub Branch, Ken Higgins OAM

Aussie Heroes is a charity which was founded by Jan-Maree Ball to give back to our Defence Force members and has been running since January 2012. It began with Jan-Maree, with the help of her quilt group, sending quilts and laundry bags to one particular soldier and his team and has now expanded to sending quilts and laundry bags to deployed soldiers.

You may ask “Well, how did Ken Higgins end up having a quilt presented to him”.

The story starts with Luke Gosling OAM , MP – Member for Solomon, in the Northern Territory and former Australian Army Captain 1990-2001. Luke was a guest at the Commando Welfare Trust Black Tie Dinner in March 2021. Aussie Heroes had donated a quilt as a raffle prize and Luke won the quilt. Luke contacted Jan-Maree the next day to thank her. In conversation, Luke told her that his father John Gosling had served in Vietnam and Jan-Maree immediately offered to make a quilt for his father.



As it turned out John Gosling had served in Vietnam with Ken Higgins and they became great mates. Once John found out that he was getting a quilt, one was arranged for Ken.

Ken was surprised at his local watering hole in Mackay on Friday 2 July and presented with the quilt by Mackay locals, Flight Lieutenant Tracey Pelling, RAAF Reservist and Captain Louise Broadfoot, Army Reservist (both beneficiaries of Aussie Heroes quilts while deployed on operations).

Ken’s wife Vicki was most helpful in keeping the mission dark and surprising Ken at the Langford Hotel at lunch time, Friday 2 July.

The mission when off like clockwork and it was a pleasure in being invited to represent RSL Queensland at the presentation to Ken and being able to meet Tracey and Louise.



Veterans Health Week 16/24 October 2021

Don’t forget Veterans Health Week.

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.

District Life Members' Luncheon

On Saturday 24 July, the District Executive hosted a luncheon in Mackay for our District's Life Members.

Thirteen Life Members attended the luncheon with their partners and everyone seemed to have a good time and enjoyed a delicious meal and the opportunity to meet up with RSL colleagues.

RSL Queensland Deputy President, Wendy Taylor, was to be our special guest for the occasion but her flight to Mackay was cancelled at the last moment.

I also sincerely thank District Secretary, Lynette Phillips, for planning and organizing such an enjoyable and successful event.



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 Finch Hatton on Saturday 17 August with 16 delegates, and 7 co-delegates from the Sub Branches, the District Executive, and 4 visitors.

State Fundraising Network Manager, Deborah Scott-Ranson, made a presentation on fundraising and grant applications and offered to provide assistance on these matters to the Sub Branches. I thank Deb for giving up part of her weekend and travelling from Brisbane to attend our meeting

The Finch Hatton Sub Branch was our host and I thank President, Tammy Sprott and her members for making us feel so welcome. We will long remember the lunch that was cooked up by the local Sub Branch members.

District Secretary

As announced at the District Council meeting at Finch Hatton, our District Secretary, Lynette, will be relieving in a Network Support Manager position for the next 3 months. She will have responsibility for our District, as well as the North Queensland and Far Northern Districts.

Lynette, will continue to keep an eye on the District Secretary responsibilities in our District and to assist her, a temporary clerical person will be appointed from the 16 August to assist her with the work load.

I ask that you consider this situation when making requests from the District.

Meetings for Remainder of Year

District Executive

Saturday 27 August
Saturday 29 October

District Council

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 approved by the court 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.

The 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.

A luncheon for members has been organized for Saturday 28th August to allow the new members to meet the existing members.

State Board Meeting and Related Matters

A meeting was held on Thursday 29 July 2021.

RSL Queensland AGM

As previously advised, 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 and a fact sheet is being progressively updated for member information.

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

Final submissions from members have now closed and the Constitution Working Party is now considering the latest submissions made by RSL members.

The committee will now further update the draft constitution as a result of the suggested changes provided by members.

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 the District Council meeting to be held on Saturday 18 September at the Gracemere Sub Branch to answer any questions on the draft constitution.

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

District Discovery Visit

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

I participated in a workshop in Brisbane on Thursday 22 July with all the District Presidents regarding the results of the District Discovery visits.

Further workshops are to be held with the District Presidents.

I want to make it abundantly clear that Districts are not being abolished and will remain.

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.

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

This program will continue next year with Sub Branches ordering the merchandise directly through RSL Queensland and having the goods delivered to the Sub Branches.

District Website/Facebook

Website address is www.rslpfdistrict.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, 47 applications have been approved at a cost of \$20,058.35: Dental \$9,633.35, Hearing \$4,279.55, 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, 4 recharged and 1 replaced, at a cost of \$5,194.00.

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 discussions with RSL State regarding the running of the 4 hour Welfare Support Officer training course recently run in Mackay for Sub Branch members in other areas of the District.

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 paper work 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, 8 applications from the Sub Branches has been approved at a cost of \$37,769.71. When we add in the spending in relation to the District's Dental and Allied Health Subsidy Program and the Live Life Alarms Program, \$63,022.06 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 through the Sub Branches closed on Friday 18 June in time for District Executive to review applications for around \$53,000 at Saturday 26 June meeting and made recommendations to the District Council meeting on Saturday 17 July regarding the allocation of the funds.

The District decided to provide a further \$5,847.70 of funds and the recommended allocation of \$32,846.70 to the cadet units was approved at the District Council meeting.

Funds have now been dispersed to the cadet units through their sponsor Sub Branch.

Emergency Welfare

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

For 2021 year to date, \$3,435.84 has been expended helping veterans.

President's Message for the Month

Last month I spoke about the new draft constitution that will be presented to the members to vote on at the State AGM in December this year and I followed this up by initiating a discussion among Sub Branch delegates at the District Council meeting at Finch Hatton on Saturday 17 July. I believe the discussion concerning the 3 main issues in the draft constitution was well received by the delegates and gave them important information to take back to their Sub Branches.

There is another matter I would like to raise in this newsletter. Again, at the AGM in December this year, Sub Branch delegates will be asked to vote on behalf of their Sub Branches and elect a State President for the next 3 years.

Again, it is not my intention to tell Sub Branches which candidate to vote for as every member of RSL Queensland is entitled to run for elected executive positions which become vacant every 3 years.

State President, Tony Ferris, has asked District Presidents to give every opportunity to those individuals wishing to run for the State President position and I ask Sub Branches to do the same, even the ability to address Sub Branch members if requested.

Again, it is essential that Sub Branch members come together to consider the candidates for the State President's position and decide how their Sub Branch delegate should vote. To do this they must be informed. Again, too often I see that the matter is left to their delegate (often the President) to decide how the Sub Branch will vote.

Sub Branches need to be cognizant that you are electing a person:

1. Who will be the leader of RSL Queensland for the next 3 years and that person needs to have the leadership skills necessary to represent RSL Queensland and possesses the interpersonal skills necessary that allows he/she to meet with and communicate with the Prime Minister, State Premier, State Governor, other government department representatives, and other stakeholders.
2. Who will become the Chair of the RSL Queensland Board and needs to be experienced in governance matters and capable of chairing and running a board meeting.
3. Who is aware of RSL issues, understands these issues, and articulates these issues to government and to other stakeholders, including the media.

The information you will need and the issues you need to consider in making this decision would include:

1. Each candidate will be required to complete a nomination form that will contain a curriculum vitae which provides information on the candidate. The information provided will relate to the persons service record, history of voluntary service to the RSL, formal education details, business experience, experience in chairing a Board, and other related details.
2. Each candidate will be given the opportunity to address the delegates at the AGM and make a pitch for the position as well. Your delegate should be in a position to assess the candidate for public speaking ability and presentation as well.
3. The Sub Branch will need to make judgements about the candidates in relation to the following:
 - Does the candidate have the ability and capacity to lead RSL Queensland and chair a Board of an organization that turns over \$200 million a year.
 - Does the candidate support the RSL Queensland 2025 Strategy or does he/she intend to dismantle it.
 - Does the candidate have the ability to represent RSL Queensland in the media, at commemorative services, and in talks with RSL stakeholders.

In this message, I have tried to highlight that it is essential that the best candidate is elected as our State President as his or her leadership style and business skills is a very important factor in whether RSL Queensland can get on with the business of providing much needed services to veterans and their families.

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 Financial	Deceased Date
1009284	Robert	Duval	Walkerston-Pleystowe Sub	SMLIFE	10/07/2021

District Council Meeting
Hosted by RSL Finch Hatton Sub Branch
17 July 2021





Open invitation and welcome to all Afghanistan Veterans.



It was October 2001 when the first Australian troops deployed to Afghanistan and after 20 years and 41 lives lost later, all Australian troops have been withdrawn in 2021.

The Walkerston/Pleystowe RSL Sub-Branch invites you to commemorate and recognize the service and sacrifice of those who served in Afghanistan with a dinner and commemorative service to be conducted at the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel Walkerston and ANZAC Park on the 16th October 2021.

Dress will be jacket and miniatures.

The Evening will consist of:

- Pre-dinner drinks
- Walk to ANZAC Park for a commemorative service including roll call
- Dinner
- Keynote speaker [TBC]
- Reflections and anecdotes

Please RSVP by the Monday 27 September 2021:

Rod Francisco: rod.francisco@walkerston.rslqld.net.au
 Dan Peters: daniel.peters@walkerston.rslqld.net.au

Please note that you are not required to be an RSL member to attend this event as it is open to all Afghanistan Veterans.

