

## **RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

### **SEPTEMBER 2019**

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

1. I travelled to Brisbane on 5 August to attend a State Audit & Risk Committee meeting.
2. I travelled to Mackay to work in the District Office on 8/9 August and attend a number of meetings.
3. On Sunday 11 August, I attended a general meeting of the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub-Branch and also visited the Emu Park Sub-Branch.
4. I met Douglas Graham in Rockhampton to discuss plans he has for the construction of a War Memorial at Woorabinda.
5. On Sunday 18 August, I attended the Vietnam Veterans Day commemorative service at Cockscomb Veterans Retreat and laid a wreath on behalf of the District.
6. I travelled to Brisbane to attend District Presidents' meeting and State Board meeting on 21 and 22 August respectively.
7. I travelled to Mackay to attend and chair a District Executive meeting on Saturday 24 August.
8. I travelled to Brisbane on 28 August to attend a Mates4Mates Board meeting.

#### **District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics for August 2019**

Voluntary Hours	167.5
Kilometers Travelled	2062
Nights Away From Home	5

#### **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 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 now been advised that the matter was deferred and I am not aware when matter will go to the Council.

## **District Strategic Plan**

The District engaged 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 SWOT 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 then compiled a draft Strategic Plan and the document has been reviewed by the District Executive.

The Strategic Plan document was 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 for approval.

## **District Executive Meeting Saturday 24 August 2019**

### **2019 Cadet Funding**

The District Secretary has forwarded the relative approved funds to the Sub-Branches for forwarding on to the cadet units and I hope that the Sub-Branches have done so.

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

This change was approved at the July Council meeting.

### **Basic Welfare Course**

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

18 people have registered to attend course.

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

## **Sarina Ute Muster**

A Ute Muster will be held at the Sarina Showgrounds on 5/7 October 2019 and funds raised will be donated to promote suicide prevention.

The nominated charity is Grapevine, an organization that promotes suicide awareness and education in the Mackay area and runs prevention programs.

The District Executive has decided to sponsor the event to the extent of \$5,000.

## **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)

Please note that I had previously advised that the RSL State President, Tony Ferris, and the new RSL Queensland CEO, Melanie Wilson, would be attending the 21 September District Council meeting.

They are now unable to attend and will schedule a visit in the near future.

## **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 22 August 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 State 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 27/28 June 2020. Venue will be the same as for the 2019 AGM.

### **New State Constitution**

More than 10% of sub-Branches from within the Brisbane North District have requested RSL Queensland to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to consider amendment to the State Constitution.

Clause 6.4 of the State Constitution requires that the State Board must hold the meeting in a reasonable time and legal advice is that the meeting should be held within a 6 months period.

The Board was concerned about the cost of holding the meeting in Brisbane and came up with a proposal to hold technology meetings in satellite locations throughout Queensland to reduce the cost. However, under the constitution, the proposal needed the consent of 100% of the sub-branches and this was not given.

A notice of meeting has now been issued to hold the EGM in Brisbane on Saturday 30 November 2019. At the meeting, delegates will vote on the same constitution document that failed to pass at the AGM held in June 2019.

### **Sub-Branch Knowledge and Communication 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 be launched on 31 October 2019.

A presentation will be made to delegates at the November District Council meeting in Mackay.

### **Membership –MMS System**

An upgrade of the MMS system is currently underway and work remains on track for completion in October/November this year.

A presentation will be made to delegates at the November District Council meeting.

### **INTERFET 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **New State Board Member**

District President for the Wide Bay & Burnett District and State Director, Don Davey, has had to step down from these positions due to ill health. Trevor Williamson OAM has now been appointed to these positions.

I welcome Trevor to the positions and wish Don all the best for a speedy recovery.

### **Member Code of Conduct**

A working party has been set up by the Board to develop a member Code of Conduct for incorporation into the State By-Laws.

I will keep you posted on the developments.

## **On Going Matters and Reminders**

### **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 your members forward.

### **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](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.

### **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 calendar year. 22 applications at a cost of \$8,122 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 Executive 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.

RSL Queensland has donated considerable funds to GMRF over recent years to enable the completion of the Vietnam Veterans PTSD study. Further, State is currently funding a study into the transition of servicemen and women from the services 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 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. \$1 790.79 has been expended so far this year.

As alluded to earlier, a number of Sub-Branches in the Brisbane North District have called for an Extraordinary General Meeting of RSL Queensland under the State Constitution and the Board has no option but to conduct the meeting.

It is of concern to me and other State Board members that:

1. The running of this meeting will incur a cost of around \$200, 000, funds which could be better spent on our veterans.
2. The business of the AGM would be to consider the draft constitution which was defeated at the recent AGM in Brisbane.

RSL Queensland, since the AGM in June, has entered into a process where by those Sub-Branches that voted against the constitution have been asked to provide their reasons for doing so. It would make more sense to the Board, that an amended draft constitution which considers this feedback would have more chance of being passed by the members than one that was recently rejected.

For these reasons, our State President, Tony, is going to approach the Sub-Branches from the Brisbane North District who called for the EGM to see if they would consider withdrawing their motions.

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	Last Financial Ye...
1732592	Nola	Graham	29/04/1921	3/09/2019	Capricornia & Rockhampt...	SMLIFE/WA2019
1518268	J	O'Sullivan	30/05/1927	28/08/2019	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1248047	John	McQueen	13/07/1949	26/08/2019	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1028449	Nancy	Green	26/08/1924	2/08/2019	Gracemere & District Sub...	SMLIFE

## GARGETT BOWLS DAY



The Diggers Three Day held at Garget on the 3rd of August RSL Marian and Finch Hatton combined to make it a great day as usual with both sub-branches being the major sponsors.



**ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE**

**LIVE MUSIC**

FRIDAY NIGHT: After Midnight

SATURDAY NIGHT: Eight Second Ride

SUNDAY NIGHT: Talent Show Winner Opening Act, Luke Geiger and Bareback, Brad Butcher

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