

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

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

1. Attended the funeral of Yeppoon RSL Life Member, John McQueen, on Tuesday 10 September and conducted an RSL Poppy Service.
2. Attended a general meeting of the Emu Park RSL on Sunday 15 September.
3. I travelled to Brisbane to attend a Media Training Course and a District Presidents' meeting on 18 September, and a State Board meeting on 19 September.
4. Attended a District Council meeting in Rockhampton on Saturday 21 September.
5. I travelled to Mackay on Tuesday 24 September to meet with State Branch staff member, Lisa McLroy, who is a Project Manager with People & Culture Department.
6. On Friday 26 September, I participated in a phone interview with a Consultant who is carrying out a Board Performance review of the Mates4Mates Board.
7. On Friday 27 September I met with Brian Hollis from Legacy at Emu Park to discuss matters of mutual interest to the RSL and Legacy.

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

Voluntary Hours	126.5
Kilometers Travelled	1105
Nights Away From Home	3

Vale John McQueen

As alluded to earlier, I attended the funeral of Yeppoon RSL member and Vietnam Veteran, John McQueen, on Tuesday 10 September, and conducted an RSL Poppy Service.

John had been a member of the RSL since the early 1970's and was a Life Member. In 2016 he was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal.

Life Membership – Noel Mallyon

It was an honour and privilege in my capacity as President of the RSL Pioneer-Fitzroy-Highlands District to present Noel with Life Membership of the RSL at District Council meeting on Saturday 21 September.



Noel joined the Emerald RSL in 1979 and served as Deputy President from 1980 to 1993. He has been President of the Sub-Branch since 1994 to the present day.

Over that time, Noel has contributed immensely to the welfare of veterans in the Emerald area, been instrumental in ensuring that the Emerald community commemorated ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, and Vietnam Veterans Day each year, and found time to contribute to his local community in organisations such as Legacy, Lions, and little Athletics.

I am sure that all the members of PFH District will join with me in congratulating Noel on being awarded one of the highest honours that can be bestowed on an RSL member.

Mackay Memorial Swimming Pool

At the 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.

I am pleased to advise that the Council considered a Mackay Memorial Swimming Pool Centre paper at their meeting on 11 September and passed the following motion:

- a. Recognise the "Memorial Swimming Pool Centre" as a valuable community asset in the Council Aquatic Strategy;
- b. Recognise the important Second World War memorial aspect of the Memorial Swimming Centre site;
- c. Given latest facilities assessments, and to enable the impact of the MARC and other facilities on MSC patronage, exercise the 12 months extension option to October 2020 in the current Belgravia operating contract;
- d. Notes that despite maintenance practices and current standard that the aquatic facilities at the site have a finite life and planning should be undertaken for sympathetic redevelopment of facilities within the MSC, in keeping with community needs;
- e. Ensure that redevelopment plans of the facilities on the site involve extensive community consultation, after consultation with applicable Returned Services League (RSL) sub-branches;
- f. Establish a community reference group consisting of relevant stakeholders to inform the redevelopment plans; and
- g. Consider the registration of the site on the local heritage register following the outcome of consultation on facilities redevelopment within the site.

It seems to me that the present Council recognizes the World War 2 Memorial aspects of the pool and is willing to consider having the site listed on the local heritage register to ensure the protection of the site in the future.

District Strategic Plan

Geoff Wohlson from Wohlston Consulting, the facilitator hired to assist with the development of a Strategic Plan for the District, made a presentation to delegates and spoke to the plan document at the District Council meeting on Saturday 21 September.

The Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 was approved by the Council at the meeting.



The District Secretary has provided Sub-Branches with a copy of Mr. Wohlson's presentation and the approved plan.

District Council Meeting Saturday 21 September 2019

Defibrillators

You may recall that the District provided defibrillators to a number of sub-branches last year from the Charitable Objects Fund.

Sub-Branches which did not receive a defibrillator and now wish to do so, are invited to apply through the Charitable Objects Fund. District Secretary, Lynette, can provide you with a copy of the application and guidelines for the fund.

2020 AGM & District Council (DC) Dates

28 March	Gemfields Sub-Branch	AGM and DC
16 May	Gracemere Sub-Branch	
18 July	Finch Hatton Sub-Branch	
19 September	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub-Branch	
21 November	Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub-Branch (Mackay)	

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 decided to sponsor the event to the extent of \$5,000.

Dental and Allied Health Program

At District Council meeting, approval was given to incorporate the existing Dental Health Program into a modified Dental and Allied Health Program from 1 January 2020.

The new program will allow the \$1,000 per RSL member dental health subsidy to be also used for hearing aid and reading glasses expenses incurred by members.

First Aid Kits for Sub-Branches

Sub-Branches who have not responded to the District Secretary's email regarding the type of First Aid Kits they need please do so ASAP.

District Council Meeting for the Remainder of 2019

16.11.2019 Mackay (Mackay Sub-Branch as host) Souths Leagues Club, Milton Street

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 19 September 2019

Queensland Art Union

Lotteries are looking at ways of growing the lotteries sales. Presently sales are mainly made through VIP and direct sales and as part of a strategic review other avenues are being considered.

Presently Lotteries is piloting a door-knocking program selling RSL Art Union VIP membership and the pilot is performing well and program is set to continue into the future.

Lotteries are committed to ensuring their salespeople, including door-knockers and shopping- centre salespeople, demonstrate integrity and honesty in their dealing with the public. If any members experience any issues, then please contact the Lotteries Internal Sales Team at info@rsladirectfundraising.com.au and matter will be investigated.

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 had 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 was issued to hold the EGM in Brisbane on Saturday 30 November 2019. At the meeting, delegates were to vote on the same constitution document that failed to pass at the AGM held in June 2019.

The State President, Tony Ferris, has spoken with the Sub-Branches in Brisbane North Branch and asked them to reconsider their call for an EGM and they have responded by withdrawing their motions to hold an EGM. As a result, the EGM in Brisbane on Saturday 30 November 2019 will not go ahead.

A Constitution Working Party has now been set up with the following members:

Les Nash – Committee Chair, RSL Queensland Director

Garry Player – RSL Queensland Director and RSL North Queensland District President

Rob Walford – RSL Queensland member

Michael Liddelow – RSL Queensland Member

Richard Marr – RSL Queensland Member

Maria Forgione (GM Legal & Governance), Emma Gieke (Senior Legal Counsel), Bill Kernocky (Registrar), and Leah Coogans (Company Secretary) will provide technical support to the Committee.

The Committee will consider member submissions received from members up to the end of August 2019.

It is expected that the revised constitution will be distributed for further comment by members and tabled for approval at the 2020 AGM in June.

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.

An information presentation was made to delegates at the September District Council meeting in Rockhampton, and will also be another at the November District Council meeting.

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 20th Anniversary

Veterans Care ran a commemorative activity in Timor Leste between the 18-22 September 2019.

RSL State funded a veteran from each District.

Dan Peters from Walkerston/Pleystowe Sub-Branch was the PFH District representative.

An invitation will be issued to Dan to attend the District Council meeting in November 2019 to report on the event.

Member Code of Conduct

As reported last month, 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

Distribution of District's Monthly Newsletter

I remind members that the District Secretary has been able to compile an email list of members through MMS and is currently distributing the newsletter electronically.

If you wish to avail of this distribution method, then please advise your Sub-Branch Secretary of your email address for recording in MMS. Further, if you are on the list and do not wish to be on the list, then please advise the District Secretary accordingly.

WW11 Reconciliation Tour

For several years now, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (JMOFA) has arranged tours of Japan for former Japanese Prisoners of War and their descendants. The tours aim to create a spirit of reconciliation, and foster healing and understanding between Australian veterans and the Japanese people.

In partnership with RSL National, JMOFA is inviting RSL members and their families to register their interest in participating in the 2020 tour.

RSL Queensland has been invited to nominate two candidates for consideration. Four places are available nationally, with a final shortlist compiled by RSL National for consideration by JMOFA.

Further details on the eligibility criteria and how to apply have been forwarded to each Sub-Branch.

Please note that expressions of interest need to be emailed to info@rslqld.org by Wednesday 16 October 2019. with subject line: WW11Reconciliation Tour Application.

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.

In regard recruiting of membership, it has come to my notice through State Branch that some Sub-Branched are insisting that potential members provide details of their service record when other documentation like a sighting of the person's DVA Gold Card or a search of the veteran nominal rolls would be sufficient to establish that the person is a genuine veteran or an ex-serviceperson and is eligible to be a member.

Correspondence to RSL Queensland

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

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 provision of Compliance & Governance Training 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. 27 applications at a cost of \$9,242.35 have been approved for the year.

Please note that this program will be incorporated into a new Dental and Allied Health Program from the 1 January 2020.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2019. 5 new alarms have been issued, 12 alarms have been renewed, and 2 alarms have been upgraded at a cost of \$ 1,915 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 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. However, a further 3 applications have been lodged and are in the process of review.

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

The District Secretary forwarded the relative approved amounts to the Sub-Branches for forwarding on to the cadet units and I hope this has been attended to.

Sub-Branches are reminded that an acquittal form needs to be completed by the sub-Branch and returned to District by November this year.

Emergency Welfare

A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated for 2019. \$2,030.79 has been expended so far this year.

At the District Council meeting on Saturday 21 September, I advised delegates that RSL Queensland is presently looking at ways to provide support to the Sub-Branches, especially the smaller traditional Sub-Branches.

The RSL Queensland Board and your District recognize the importance of the Sub-Branches in our structure and the good and essential work that is done at this level in providing welfare services to the veterans. We also acknowledge that the Sub-Branches play a very important role in ensuring that ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, and other days are commemorated each year throughout Queensland.

The SKIP Program is presently being developed and will be launched later this year and is designed to assist the Sub-Branches in meeting their governance obligations as set by the ACNC.

RSL Queensland management is now looking at other financial and operational options and if adopted would roll out during 2020.

You may have noticed over the last couple of years that your District is moving into the welfare space and provides programs such as the Dental Subsidy Program, LiveLife Alarms program, and the Sub-Branch Assistance program.

At the same time, RSL Queensland has made Cadet Funding and Charitable Objects Funding available to the Sub-Branches through the District.

My plea to the Sub-Branches is to access these programs for the benefit of your member and the veterans in your community.

Please keep up the good work and remember that your District is here to help in any way we can.

Kindest regards

Barry Vains OAM

District President

THE LAST POST

<input type="checkbox"/>	Member ID	First Name	Surname	Date of Birth	Deceased Date ▼	Owner
<input type="checkbox"/>	1012518	Henry	Morrow	22/04/1939	1/10/2019	Walkerston-Pleystowe Sub...
<input type="checkbox"/>	1014952	Allan	Wyvill	21/02/1933	30/09/2019	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	1309971	Gwendoline	Barker	7/09/1924	21/09/2019	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	1558110	William	Williams	31/08/1938	7/09/2019	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	1732592	Nola	Graham	29/04/1921	3/09/2019	Capricornia & Rockhampt...

District Council Meeting 21.9.2019



A Veterans Health Week Activity

Nov 1st 2019

Who will be there?

Quota Park

9:30 - 11:30

Beach end of Bridge road

- RSLQld - Advocacy
- NJF Wellness
- Fuel your life
- Support Dog
- Mates 4 mates
- Open Arms
- Arting about Town
- CQU Chiros
- Podiatrist
- Mackay Sub Branch
- Whitsunday
- Legacy
- and More

1 Short Walk

+

10 activities to

**help build positive
mental health**

+

Light Feed

+

meet friends old &

New

=

The life Decathlon

Life Decathlon



NJF
Wellness Centres



For more information call
Haley on 041011285 or Tracey
on 0448943604