

## **RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

### **NOVEMBER 2019**

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

1. I travelled to Brisbane on Thursday 3 October for a Mates4Mates Board meeting.
2. While in Brisbane, I met with the Manager of the Sub-Branch Compliance Team, Audrey Dawson to discuss Sub-Branch matters.
3. I travelled to Sarina for official opening of Sarina Ute Muster on Saturday 4 October.
4. I travelled to Brisbane and attended an Audit & Risk Committee meeting on Tuesday 8 October.
5. I stayed over in Brisbane and attended an RSL Queensland Lotteries Draw on Wednesday 9 October.
6. On Thursday 17 October, I attended a meeting with Livingstone Shire Council officers at St Christopher's Chapel, Nerimbera, regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the Chapel.
7. On Sunday 20 October, I attended a general meeting of the Emu Park RSL Sub-Branch.
8. I travelled to Sarina on Monday 21 October, together with RSL Queensland officers from the Sub-Branch Compliance Team and Consultant from PKF, to meet with Sarina Sub-Branch Executive Committee.
9. I stayed over in Mackay and attended the opening of a Basic Welfare Course which was run by State Veterans Services Officers.
10. I travelled to Brisbane to attend District Presidents' meeting on Wednesday 23 October and a State Board meeting on Thursday 24 October.
11. I travelled to Mackay to Attend and Chair a District Executive meeting on Saturday 26 October.
12. I travelled to Mackay on Wednesday 30 October to attend an Awards Night for the Mackay North State High School and present the two Peter Jarrott RSL Memorial Scholarships.
13. I stayed over in Mackay and spent Thursday 31 October working with the District Secretary in the District Office and on Friday 1 November attending a Veterans Health Week Activity in Quota Park.

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

Voluntary Hours	205.0
Kilometers Travelled	3296
Nights Away From Home	10

### **PFH Life Member and World War 2 Veteran - Bill Bruce**

While in Mackay on Saturday 26 October for the District Executive meeting, together with District Deputy President, John Edwards, and District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, we visited Bill Bruce who was visiting Mackay from the Sunshine Coast.

While Bill will be 103 years of age on the 3 January next year, he takes every opportunity to return to the District, especially his beloved Nebo.

His eye sight and hearing is failing but he is still lucid and we had a cup of tea and a good chat with him.

### **Emu Park Member and World War 2 Veteran – Arthur Coutts**

Arthur will turns a 100 years old on Sunday 17 November. He has not been well lately and has had several stints in hospital.

Arthur served in the Army from 1940 to 1946 with the 6th Division of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AIF in North Africa, the Middle East, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands.

As a Welfare Officer for the Emu Park Sub-Branch, I have been visiting Arthur since 2009 and I will be attending the birthday party being held by his family.



### **Life Membership – Emu Park Women’s Auxiliary – Rhonda Argall**

It is my pleasure to advise that Rhonda was presented with Life Membership of the RSL by Sub-Branch President, Darryl Dwyer, at a general meeting of the Sub-Branch on Sunday 20 October.

Rhonda has given many years’ service to the Emu Park Women’s Auxiliary as Treasurer and before moving to Emu Park, in another Auxiliary in New South Wales.

I am sure you will join with me in congratulating Rhonda on being awarded Life Membership of the RSL.



### **Peter Jarrott Memorial Bursaries (\$2,500 x 2)**

As alluded to earlier, I travelled to Mackay on Wednesday 30 October, to present the two Peter Jarrott RSL Memorial Bursaries at the Awards Night for the Mackay North State High School.

Mr Mike Goodwin OAM, and other teachers from the School have been running the Lest We Forget Program for 20 years. Every two years, the Year 11 and 12 students travel overseas to the World War 1 battlefields of Gallipoli, France and Belgium. While on tour, the students undertake to research local Mackay District soldiers who lie in overseas war graves and report back to the families on their return.

The two scholarships are awarded to two students, Hayley Russell on the left Imogen Chase-Hodgson from the tour groups.



In the past the bursaries were funded by State Branch. However, this year, the District has taken over the funding.

### **Veterans Health Week Activity**

Friday 1 November, I joined veterans in Quota Park in Mackay for a Veterans Welfare Activity that formed part of Veterans Health Week held across Australia.

While numbers were small, I commend Mackay VSO, Tracey Victor and others for organizing the event and arranging for a number of health professionals and groups to be present.

### **Emu Park Centenary of ANZAC Memorial**

The Sub-Branch successfully applied for a DVA Grant in May this year and received \$95,000 to meet the cost of providing additional Artwork to the memorial.

Following the Remembrance Day Commemorative Service at the Emu Park Sub-Branch on Monday 11 November, at approximately, 11.30 am, a short service will be held to acknowledge the completion of the project.

### **District Executive Meeting Saturday 26 October 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)	

It may be necessary to relocate the 2020 AGM from the Gemfields due to a lack of accommodation. The Executive will make a recommendation to the District Council at meeting to be held on the 16 November.

#### **Basic Welfare Course**

A Basic Welfare Course was run by State Branch in Mackay at the Shamrock Hotel on 22/23 October 2019.

16 people attended course.

The feedback from the attendees was very positive and I thank the State VSO officers for planning and running such an informative and professional course.

### **Sarina Ute Muster**

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

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

The District sponsored the event to the extent of \$5,000.

Unfortunately, the event was not very successful and I doubt that Grapevine will benefit from the event in any material way.

### **Dental and Allied Health Program**

At District Council meeting in September, 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**

A number of Sub-Branches have responded to District's offer to provide first aid kits to sub-branches and fund through the Charitable Objects Fund.

The District Secretary is in the process of finalizing this matter and we hope kits will be available for collection at the next District Council meeting on 16 November.

### **District Council Meeting for the Remainder of 2019**

16.11.2019      Mackay(Mackay Sub-Branch as host)

### **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 24 October 2019

### **Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025**

The Board approved the 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan at meeting. The Board is excited to support the Executive of RSL Queensland and the staff as they execute this plan as it focuses on a renewed vigor in addressing the needs of the veteran family.

The plan will be communicated to members in the coming weeks.

## **RSL Employment Program**

The success of the RSL Queensland Employment Program in assisting veterans to secure meaningful employment has been recognized federally. Following a commitment by the Federal Government to provide funding, the Board has now approved a pilot of the program to be delivered in South Australia, in partnership with RSL SA.

## **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 sales people, 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](mailto: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**

As reported in earlier newsletter, 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 is in the process of drafting a new constitution using the 2015 constitution as a base.

It is expected that the revised constitution will be distributed for further comment by members later in the year.

The final document will be tabled for approval at the 2020 AGM in June.

## **Sub-Branch Knowledge and Communication Portal (SKIP)**

RSL Queensland has developed a portal which will involve a sharepoint technology platform.

It is intended that the portal will be a single source of information for sub-branches and will contain information on a variety of topics.

The project was launched on 31 October 2019.

A training session will be held on Saturday morning of the next District Council meeting on Saturday 16 November.

### **Membership –MMS System**

An upgrade of the MMS system was launched on 31 October.

A training session will be held on Saturday morning of the next District Council meeting on 16 November.

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

Dan will attend the District Council meeting in November 2019 to make a presentation on the event.

### **Member Code of Conduct**

As reported previously, 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.

### **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-Branches 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](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 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. 28 applications at a cost of \$10,000.35 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 was 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 five applications at a cost of \$25,823.36 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 \$3,509.80 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 ASAP.

## Emergency Welfare

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

In my last newsletter, 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.

Now that the RSL Queensland Strategic Plan 2020 -2025 has been approved, we can expect to see initiatives flowing out of the 2020 Business Plan which will be considered by the State Board at the November Board meeting.

Remembrance Day is not too far away and Sub-Branches will be busy planning this very important event in the RSL commemorative programme. I have been invited to give the Key Note Address at my home Sub-Branch, the Emu Park RSL.

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

Member ID	First Name	Middle Name	Surname	Deceased Da	Owner	Last Financia
1014243	Philip	P.	Connor	8/10/2019	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	SM2019
1012518	Henry	Theodore	Morrow	1/10/2019	Walkerston-Pleystowe	SMLIFE
1014952	Allan		Wyvill	30/09/2019	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE