

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

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

1. Attended the Emu Park Remembrance Day Commemorative Service on Monday 11 November as the Keynote Speaker and laid a wreath on behalf of the District. Following the Remembrance Day Service, I attended a short service that acknowledged the addition of new artwork to the Emu Park Centenary of ANZAC Memorial
2. I travelled to Mackay to attend and chair a District Council meeting on Saturday 16 November.
3. On Sunday 17 November, I collected RSL Queensland Deputy State Manager, John Strachan OAM, from the Rockhampton Airport, and transported him to a 100th year birthday day party for World War 2 veteran and Emu Park RSL Sub-Branch member, Arthur Coutts.
4. I travelled to Brisbane to attend District Presidents' meeting on Wednesday 20 November and a State Board meeting on Thursday 21 November.
5. I travelled to Brisbane to attend a Mates4Mates Board meeting on Wednesday 27 November.
6. While in Brisbane, I took the opportunity to meet with the new Chief Financial Officer of RSL Queensland, Greg Pratt, and to attend to matters in ANZAC House on Thursday 28 November.
7. I travelled to Brisbane to attend an RSL Queensland Audit & Risk Committee meeting on Monday 2 December.

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

Voluntary Hours	169.5
Kilometers Travelled	1637
Nights Away From Home	4

Vale World War 2 Veteran – Monty Edmonds

It is with much sadness that I announce the passing of World War 2 veteran, Monty Edmonds, on 22 November. His funeral was on 2 December at which the Deputy District President, John Edwards, conducted an RSL Poppy Service.

Monty joined the Australian Army on 25 November 1942 and was discharged on 26 November 1945. He served in New Guinea, Morotai, and Borneo with the 2/12 Australian Infantry Battalion.

Monty was a member of the Kuttabul RSL Sub-Branch for 77 years. He was well known in the District and he will be sadly missed.

I know you will join with me in passing on the District's deepest sympathy to Monty's family.

Emu Park RSL Member and World War 2 Veteran – Arthur Coutts

Arthur turned 100 years old on Sunday 17 November.

Arthur served in the Army from 1940 to 1946 with the 6th Division of the 2nd 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.



As alluded to earlier, I collected the RSL Queensland Deputy President, John Strachan OAM, from the Rockhampton Airport and transported him to Arthur's party. John presented Arthur with a framed certificate in recognition of this important milestone in his life.

I thank John for giving his time to come up from Brisbane to undertake this presentation on behalf of the RSL. Arthur's family were very appreciative of John's gesture.



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, a short service was held to acknowledge the completion of the project.

Inaugural 2019 Australian Street Art Awards

Earlier this year, the Livingstone Shire Council entered the Emu Park Centenary of ANZAC Memorial into the Best Monument or Memorial category of the awards.

Despite the highly competitive field of the entries, the memorial was recently judged the best memorial in Australia at an Awards Night on the Sunshine Coast.



Distasteful Artwork

The Mackay Regional Council recently hosted an Art Exhibition in its Art Gallery in Mackay.

The Exhibition included two paintings of soldiers with clown faces super imposed over them and likening the soldiers to blackbirders from the last century who kidnapped Pacific Islanders to work in the Queensland Sugar Cane fields.

The Artist is Abdul Abdulla, a 7th generation Australian from Perth, who has become increasingly political in his art to keep pace with the politicization of his Moslem faith.

The paintings outraged many veterans in the Mackay region and the Mackay RSL Sub-Branch led the charge in expressing this outrage and approaching the Council to have the paintings taken down from the exhibition.

After consultations with the Council and much support from the community, the Council agreed to take down the two offensive paintings.

I thank the President of the Mackay Sub-Branch, Reay Tuck, and his members, for showing the leadership and persistence needed to achieve this outcome.

District Council Meeting Saturday 16 November 2019

2020 AGM & District Council (DC) Dates

28 March	Yeppoon 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)	

At the District Council meeting, it was decided to move the 2020 AGM from the Gemfields to Yeppoon due to a lack of accommodation at the Gemfields.

2020 AGM – Nominations for District Executive Positions

The District Secretary advised at Council meeting that:

1. Two Positions, Vice President and Treasurer, become vacant at the AGM.
2. Nominations for the positions are now open and will close on 29 February 2020.

Sub-Branch 2020 AGM's

If you have not already done so, please advise the District Secretary of your Sub-Branch's AGM date for 2020.

The Executive will endeavor to have an Executive member attend your AGM. If it is not possible to attend your AGM, then we will strive to attend a general meeting during 2020.

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.

The organizer of the event, Peter Zigmantas, has provided a preliminary report on the event as follows:

1. The event was not as successful as he had hoped.
2. They got 2200 through the gate and needed 3000 to breakeven.
3. Even though the event ran at a loss, a donation of \$1,500 will be made to Grapevine to be used for local community Suicide Prevention training.
4. The event was run safely and without incident.

5. The District sponsorship was used to provide Children's Entertainment at the event.
6. Two of the major sponsors are committed to next year and he is looking at a change of date away from the long weekend.

I commend Peter and his wife, Diane, for their commitment to such a worthy cause.

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 distributed the kits to the Sub-Branches in attendance at the Council meeting. Remaining kits will be sent to Sub-Branches not represented at the Council meeting.

75th Anniversary of the End of World War 2 in 2020

It was decided at Council meeting that funding will be provided in 2020 Budget and made assessable to Sub-Branches for the commemoration of the event.

2018 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 21 November 2019.

Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025

The Board approved the 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan at October Board 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.

At November meeting, the Board approved a Communications Plan to internal and external stakeholders.

Plan information will start to roll out to Sub-Branches and members through the RSL News, RSL Runner, and through briefings at the State and District AGM's during 2020.

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 during 2020.

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 doorknockers and shopping- center 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@rslaudirectfundraising.com.au and matter will be investigated.

2020 State AGM

2020 AGM will be held in Brisbane on 26/27 June 2020. Venue will be the same as for the 2019 AGM.

New State Constitution

As reported in earlier newsletters, 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.

A draft of the new 2020 constitution will be posted on the RSLQ website in early December and feedback and comment will be sought from members up until the 21 February 2020.

A revised draft document will then be completed, and this draft 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 was held on Saturday morning of the District Council meeting on Saturday 16 November.

The District Secretary will be providing one-on-one training to Sub-Branches in early 2020.

Membership –MMS System

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

A training session was held on Saturday morning of the District Council meeting on 16 November.
The District Secretary will be providing one-on-one training to Sub-Branches in early 2020.

INTERFET 20th Anniversary Tour

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

RSL State funded a veteran from each District to go on the tour.

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

Dan attended the District Council meeting in November 2019 and made a verbal and slide presentation on his return trip to Timor Leste.

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

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 \$12,893.45 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. 9 new alarms have been issued, 14 alarms have been renewed, and 2 alarms have been upgraded at a cost of \$ 3,100 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 paperwork 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 9 applications at a cost of \$28,318.86 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. \$3,063.52 has been expended so far this year.

Christmas is fast approaching and before we know it, the 2020 New Year will be upon us.

To all those Sub-Branch Committee and RSL members who continually volunteer to keep the Sub-Branches operating in the District, I urge you to take a break from RSL business over the festive season. I intend to do so as we all need a break to recharge our engines.

I take this opportunity to wish all RSL members in the District a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This will be my last newsletter for 2019 and the next one will be in February 2020.

Thank you for all the good work you have done in meeting the Charitable Objectives of the League in 2019 and I look forward to catching up with you in the New Year.

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	Surname	Date of Birth	Deceased Dat...	Owner	Last Financial...
1552902	Douglas	Edmonds	29/02/1924	22/11/2019	Kuttabul Sub Branch Inc	SMLIFE
1006884	Cedric	Craig	5/02/1933	19/11/2019	Emu Park Sub Branch I...	SMLIFE
1014243	Philip	Connor	2/05/1941	8/10/2019	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	SM2019

Office Closure

The RSL PFH DISTRICT OFFICE will be closed from:

Wednesday 18th December 2019

And will reopen

Tuesday 28th January 2020

*If you have an urgent enquiry please call
the District President on 0439 658 606 or*

RSL QLD Branch on 3634 9444