

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

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

1. I travelled to Brisbane to attend an RSL Queensland Audit & Risk Committee meeting on Monday 2 December.
2. I attended the Emu Park Sub-Branch Christmas Party on Saturday 7 December.
3. On Sunday 8 December I attended a general meeting of the Yeppoon Sub-Branch and afterwards enjoyed a Christmas drink with members.
4. I travelled to Brisbane to attend a District Presidents' meeting on Wednesday 11 December and a State Board meeting on Thursday 12 December.
5. On Saturday 14 December, I attended a function at the Emu Park Sub-Branch to thank the Sub-Branch's volunteers.
6. On Sunday 15 December, I attended a general meeting of the Emu Park Sub-Branch.
7. I travelled to Mackay to work in the District Office with the District Secretary on 16/17 December.
8. While in Mackay, I took the opportunity to attend a Christmas Party on the evening of Thursday 19 December for the Mackay Military Veterans Connect Group.
9. On Saturday 4 January, I attended a Memorial Service and wake for Vietnam veteran and Yeppoon Sub-Branch member, Chris Penglase.
10. I travelled to Mackay and worked in the District Office with the District Secretary on 16 January.
11. While in Mackay, I presented an Australia Day Silver Medallion Award to District Secretary, Lynette Phillips, on the evening of 16 January.
12. On Sunday 19 January, I attended a general meeting of the Emu Park Sub-Branch.
13. I attended an Australia Day function at Emu Park Sub-Branch and presented an Australia Day Silver Medallion Award to Sub-Branch member, Jon Willson.
14. I travelled to Brisbane for RSL Queensland Director training on the morning of Wednesday 28 January.
15. While in Brisbane, I attended a Mates4Mates Board meeting in the afternoon of Wednesday 28 January and a Strategic Planning alignment meeting of the Mates4Mates and RSL Queensland Boards on 28 January.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics

December 2019

Voluntary Hours	130.0
Kilometers Travelled	1218
Nights Away From Home	4

January 2020

Voluntary Hours	108.5
Kilometers Travelled	1113
Nights Away From Home	4

Vale – Chris Penglase

As alluded to earlier, on Saturday 4 January, I attended a Memorial Service and wake for Yeppoon Sub-Branch member, Chris Penglase. Chris was a member of the Royal Australian Navy for 20 years and saw service in Vietnam. He was also a Past President of the Yeppoon Sub-Branch.

The Memorial Service was organized by the Rockhampton Naval Association and conducted onboard a Yeppoon Coast Guard vessel off Wreck Point in Yeppoon with the service being broadcasted to mates and friends of Chris gathered on

Wreck Point. This was fitting as Chris was a member of the Rockhampton Naval Association and a past Commodore of the Yeppoon Coastguard.

The wake was held at the Yeppoon Sub-Branch.

2020 Australia Day Awards

The Australia Day Medallion Program provides an inspiring way to recognize the contribution of individuals and teams for outstanding performance on special projects or in the performance of their core duties within Australian organisations. The Australia Day medallions are reserved for the highest level of recognition and provides a unique way of inspiring and recognizing staff and volunteers when presented in the lead up to Australia Day, on 26 January each Year.

RSL Queensland participates in this program each year and two medallions are allocated to each District for awarding to two special individuals in the District. The Criteria for awarding these medallions are left to each organization to determine. However, the PFH Executive, in awarding the medallions for 2020, has considered the common themes of outstanding achievement, length of service, and contribution to the RSL.

This year, the District sought special dispensation from State Branch to award three (3) Australia Day Silver medallions to people in the District. One person is yet to be presented with their award and an announcement will be made later this month. The other two recipients were:

Jon Willson

John has been a long standing member of the Emu Park Sub-Branch and for 10 years has been Secretary of the Sub-Branch. His contribution to the Sub-Branch's operation has been commendable and very important in the continued services provided to veterans on the Capricorn Coast.

I had the honor of presenting the award to John at an Australia Day function at the Emu Park Sub-Branch on Australia Day.



Lynette Phillips

During 2019, Lyn was recognized by RSL Queensland for her 10 years' service to the RSL and in particular as the Secretary of the Pioneer-Fitzroy-Highlands RSL District. During this time, she has given unwavering support and assistance to the District Executive and to the Sub-Branches within the District. For this reason, the District Executive sought RSL Queensland's special dispensation to award an additional medallion to Lyn.

I had the honor of presenting this award to Lyn in Mackay on Thursday 16 January in the presence of District Executive members and Lyn's boss, Lisa McIlroy, from RSL Queensland.

I ask that you join with me in congratulating Jon, and Lynette on being awarded these prestigious Australia Day Medallions.

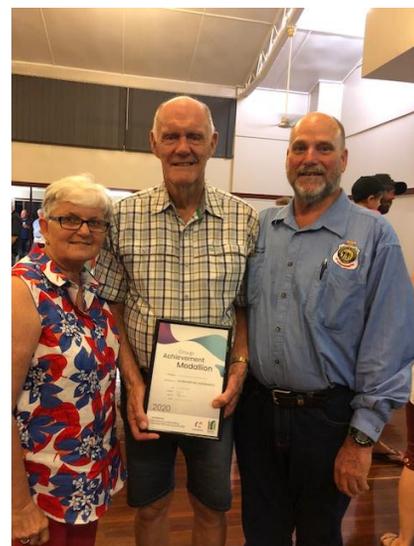


Clermont Sub-Branch Cemetery Plaque Placement Project – Australia Day Award

On Friday 8 March 2019, a commemorative service was held at the Clermont Cemetery to mark the completion of a project that identified around 60 unmarked veterans' graves in the Clermont Cemetery and placed headstones on these graves.

I am delighted to advise that the Clermont Sub-Branch was awarded an Australia Day Group Achievement Award for this great welfare initiative.

I am sure you will join with me in congratulating President, David Ward, and his members on receiving this prestigious award. A special mention and congratulations goes to Gordon and Marion Murray who contributed an enormous amount of their time to the project.



Emu Park Sub-Branch – New Cold Room and Extension of Viewing Deck



The Emu Park Sub-Branch recently completed an improvements project to their Memorial Hall. They had their priorities right as they installed a new cold room to keep the beer cold and undertook an extension to the deck at the front of the Memorial Hall.

The extension to the Viewing Deck was opened on Australia Day by Sub-Branch President, Darryl Dwyer, and I congratulate Darryl and his members for a job well done. A big thank you goes to member, Rob Clelland, who attended to the schematic plans, sought

tenders, and project managed the works.

Australian Bushfires Crisis

We would all be aware of the bushfire crisis faced by communities across Australia over the autumn and summer months. The crisis continues at this time. The impact has been heartbreaking and has caused devastation across many communities, especially in the southern states.

In response to this, RSL Queensland has donated \$100,000 to support veterans in bushfire affected regions throughout Australia. The funds will be administered and distributed by RSL National.

At the next District Executive meeting, the District Executive will consider making a donation as well.

Sub-Branches are encouraged to organize a fundraising event in their communities or if in a position to do so, then make a donation.

2020 Membership Subscriptions

As you would be aware, membership subscription of \$20 is now due and if not paid by 28 February then your membership will lapse. You will be forced to reapply for membership and this will affect your membership continuity.

Sub-Branches are encouraged to remind their members about the subscription being due.

District Council and Executive Meetings

There has been no District Council or District Executive meeting since my last newsletter at the beginning of December. An Executive Council meeting will be held on Saturday 8 February.

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)	

2020 AGM – Nominations for District Executive Positions

The District Secretary advised at last 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.

Dental & 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 is now in operation and allows the \$1,000 per RSL member dental health subsidy from the old scheme 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 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 last 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 the last Council meeting that funding will be provided in 2020 Budget and made assessable to Sub-Branches for the commemoration of the event.

State Board Meeting

A meeting was held on Thursday 11 December 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 has been rolled out to Sub-Branches and members through the RSL News and RSL Runner. Further briefings will occur at State and District AGM's during 2020.

2020 Business Plan

The 2020 Business Plan was approved by the Board at the December meeting.

Highlights of the plan are as follows:

1. Lotteries sales are expected to grow from \$130 million in 2019 to over \$150 million strengthening sustainability.
2. A contingency fund will be set aside to fund emergent initiatives identified in the 2025 Strategy.
3. There will be three major strategic projects:
 - Reimagining membership.
 - Reinvigorating our brands.
 - Piloting a service hub.

2020 will be a year to:

- Re-instate our relevance to the entire veteran community.
- Grow our influence across various stakeholders and governments.
- Strengthen sustainability in the future.

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.

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 newsletters, Constitution Working Party was 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

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 has now drafted a new constitution using the 2015 constitution as a base.

The draft of the new 2020 constitution was posted on the RSLQ website in early December and feedback and comment are 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.

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.

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.

Dental & Allied Health Program

As advised earlier, the Dental Health Program has been incorporated into the new Dental & Allied Health Program which commenced on 1 January 2020.

In 2019, there were 42 applications approved at a cost of \$14,813.40 for the Dental Health Program.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2020.

In 2019, there were 9 new alarms issued, 2 were upgraded, and 12 were recharged at a cost of \$3,100.

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 will be liaising with Veteran Services at State regarding the running of further General Welfare courses during the year.

Donations to Mates4Mates

The District Executive will consider providing a further donation to Mates4Mates in 2020. Details will be provided in the District Budget presented at the AGM in Yeppoon.

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 Executive will consider providing a further donation to GMRF in 2020.

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 2020.

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 application form and be in accordance with the guidelines. Sub-branches need to ensure they familiarize themselves with these documents before an application is made.

Sub-branches are encouraged to come up with worthy projects and apply for funding.

During 2019, 11 applications were approved at a cost of \$50,032.26.

Sub-Branch Support Program

Funding is available in 2020 through this program for those sub-branches in need.

Please refer to program policy and guidelines. An application needs to be made on application form.

During 2019, 4 applications were approved at a cost of \$3,509.80

2020 Cadet Funding

State Branch will provide funding for 2020 but amount is not known at this stage.

Sub-Branches are reminded that an acquittal form for 2019 need to be completed by the Sub-Branch and returned to District ASAP or those Sub-Branches will not be eligible for funding in 2020.

Emergency Welfare

A budget will be allocated for Emergency Welfare funding during 20120.

During 2019, \$3,388.60 was spent on emergency welfare.

2020 is now upon us and I wish everyone a happy New Year.

For 2020, both RSL Queensland and the District have set ambitious goals and this will be a challenge for us all.

RSL Queensland's new Strategic Plan 2020-2025 approved in October 2019 will focus with renewed vigor on addressing the needs of the veteran family and will work hand and hand with the Districts and the Sub-Branches to achieve this outcome. The District has its own Strategic Plan adopted during 2019. The Plan's main pillar is "Service Delivery and Membership" which is aligned to that of RSL Queensland, and these services will be developed in conjunction with State Branch.

I am confident that with all levels of the RSL working together, we can meet these goals and enhance the wellbeing of the veteran family.

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 Date	Sub Branch	Last Financial Year
1020234	Philip	Lahman	7/11/1948	28/01/2020	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1014494	Sheila	Baker	20/08/1924	18/01/2020	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1032811	Jack	Stouraitis	11/05/1949	20/12/2019	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE
1762012	Keith	Smith	21/06/1925	8/12/2019	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch Inc	SMLIFE
1013744	Chris	Penglase	4/11/1948	4/12/2019	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE