

## **RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

### **MARCH 2020**

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

1. I travelled to Brisbane to attend an RSL Queensland Audit & Risk Committee meeting on Monday 3 February.
2. On Tuesday 4 February, I met with the CEO of Legacy, Brendon Cox, who was visiting the Capricorn Coast.
3. I travelled to Mackay to work with the District Secretary in the District Office on Friday 7 February and chair a District Executive meeting on Saturday 8 February.
4. I attended an Open Day for the Central Queensland Military Museum in Rockhampton on Wednesday 12 February.
5. On Thursday 13 February, I took part in an RSLQ Board special technology meeting.
6. I attended the AGM of the Capricornia & Rockhampton District Sub-Branch in Rockhampton on Sunday 16 February.
7. I travelled to Brisbane to attend a District Presidents' meeting on Wednesday 19 February and an RSLQ Board meeting on Thursday 20 February.
8. I travelled to Mackay and worked in the District Office with the District Secretary on Monday 24 February and attend a business meeting on Tuesday 25 February.
9. On Wednesday 26 February, I attended a half day Calm Care Suicide Awareness Workshop held at the Yeppoon Sub-Branch.
10. I travelled to Mackay to chair a District Executive meeting on Friday 28 February.
11. While in Mackay, I attended the AGM of the Finch Hatton Sub-Branch on Saturday 29 February.

#### **District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics February 2020**

Voluntary Hours	185.0
Kilometers Travelled	2908
Nights Away From Home	7

#### **CALM Care Suicide Awareness Half-Day Workshop**

As alluded to earlier, I attended the above workshop on Wednesday 26 February.

The workshop was organized by Legacy and conducted at the Yeppoon Sub-Branch with over 20 people attending.

Suicide is a very confronting topic and the workshop was very informative on how the issue should be approached and when to but out and hand over to the experts.

I believe such a course is necessary for members who operate in the veteran welfare area and I would recommend that you attend if a course is being run in your area.

#### **World War 2 Veteran Film**

I understand that there is a person, a Mr. Jeff Hughes, approaching Districts and Sub-Branches for funding for a World War 2 Veteran Film project he is undertaking.

Apparently, he previously did some work for RSL Queensland but his contract has now expired. It has been alleged that Mr. Hughes is conveying the message that RSL Queensland supports his project when in fact this is not true.

The District recently received a Charitable Objects Fund application for \$10,000 from Mr. Hughes and I understand that a similar application was also submitted to all the other Districts in Queensland. PFH District sent an email response

advising that the District would not consider the application given that the application was not submitted through a Sub-Branch in the District.

Can I suggest that you do not engage with Mr. Hughes if he happens to approach your Sub-Branch for funding for his project.

### **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. I announced in my previous newsletter that our District Secretary, Lynette Phillips, and Jon Willson from the Emu Park Sub-Branch had been awarded two of the medallions.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Australia Day Silver Medallion was awarded to:

### **Terri Moloney**

Terri has been the Secretary of the Kuttabul Sub-Branch for 27 years and during this time has contributed to the Sub-Branch in many ways. She has seen and been part of many changes that have happened over this time.

Deputy President of the District, John Edwards, presented the award to Terri at the Sub-Branch AGM on Wednesday 12 February.

I am sure you all join with me in congratulating Terri on winning this prestigious Australia Day Silver Medallion.



### **2020 AGM/ State Congress**

The State AGM will be held in Brisbane on the week-end 27/28 June. And the venue will be the same as last year.

The RSL Queensland Company Secretary, Leah Coogans, put out an advice to Districts and Sub-Branches relating to the appointment of a "Replacement Delegate" to cover the absence of the delegate due to illness or other circumstances. A number of Sub-Branches were disappointed last year when in such a situation the Sub-Branch Co-Delegate was not able to vote in place of the delegate. I commend this advice to you.

To clarify this matter, I advise the following:

1. Under **Section 10 Representatives** of the District Constitution, the President of the Sub-Branch automatically becomes the delegate to the State AGM. However, a Sub-Branch can appoint another member if the President is not available to attend.

2. The RSL Queensland Company Secretary in her advice has outlined a procedure whereby the Sub-Branch can also appoint a “Replacement Delegate” to vote in place the delegate if for some unforeseen reason the delegate cannot attend the AGM.
3. Under Section 7.4 of the RSL Queensland Constitution, RSL Queensland has a duty to ensure that the District and Sub-Branch delegates have been legitimately appointed as delegates and this duty has been delegated to the District Secretary.

Given the above situation, Sub-Branches need to ensure that in the case where your Sub-Branch Delegate is not the President, then a motion appointing the delegate needs to be done at your AGM so the District Secretary can confirm this from your AGM minutes. If your Sub-Branch’s AGM has already been held and this has not happened, then you need to appoint the delegate at a General Meeting of the Sub-Branch and provide the District Secretary with a copy of the minutes of the meeting.

In relation to the appointment of a “Replacement Delegate”, this needs to be done at the Sub-Branch AGM or a following General Meeting if the Sub-Branch AGM has already been held and the appropriate minutes provided to the District Secretary.

I would encourage Sub-Branches to appoint a “Replacement Delegate” so your vote is counted.

This procedure should also be followed when you appoint your Delegate to District Council meetings.

### **Australian Bushfires Crisis**

We would all be aware of the bushfire crisis faced by communities across Australia over the autumn and summer months. 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.

The District Executive has included a donation of \$20,000 in the 2020 Budget for approval at the District AGM on 28 March 2020.

It is the intention of the District Executive to ask RSL National to administer and distribute these funds to veterans in need.

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

### **District Council and Executive Meetings**

There has been no District Council meeting since the last one in November 2019. Executive meetings were held on Saturday 8 February and Friday 28 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**

A nomination for each of the Vice-President and Treasurer positions has been received.

### **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.

### **2019 Audited Financial Accounts**

The Audit of the 2019 Financial Accounts has been completed by the auditor and reviewed by the District Executive.

The Audited Accounts have been signed off by the District Executive and the auditor and will be presented at the AGM on 28 March in Yeppoon.

### **75<sup>th</sup> 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 available to Sub-Branchedes for the commemoration of the event.

The District Executive has included \$20,000 in the 2020 Budget for approval at the AGM on 28 March.

### **State Board Meeting**

A meeting was held on Thursday 20 February 2020

### **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-Branchedes and members through the RSL News and RSL Runner.

The RSL Queensland CEO, Melanie Wilson, will attend the District AGM in Yeppoon on 28 March and will talk to the new Strategic Plan.

### **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 nationally.

Following a commitment by the Federal Government to provide funding, the Board approved a pilot of the program to be delivered in South Australia, in partnership with RSL SA during 2020. The Employment Program is now operating in South Australia.

### **New State Constitution**

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 has now been completed based on the feedback provided and this draft is now posted on the website.

There may be some minor changes to this document before being presented to members at the 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 2019.

The District Secretary is currently providing one-on-one training to Sub-Branches.

### **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 2019.

The District Secretary is now providing one-on-one training to Sub-Branches.

## **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 believe draft documents have now been produced.

## **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](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.

### **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.

So far this year, 17 applications have been approved at a cost of \$ 6 723.85.

### **LiveLife Alarms Program**

The program is permanent and continues in 2020.

For this year, there have been 2 new alarms issued and 2 recharged at a cost of \$880.00.

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 has considered providing a further donation to Mates4Mates in 2020. \$5,000 has been provided for in the 2020 District Budget to be 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 has considered providing a further donation to GMRF in 2020 and \$5,000 has been provided for in the 2020 District Budget to be presented to the AGM in Yeppoon.

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. You need to sell your proposal in the application.

So far this year, 2 application have been approved at a cost of \$ 3068.00.

### **Sub-Branch Support Program**

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

So far this year, no applications have been approved.

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

### **2020 Cadet Funding**

State Branch has provided funding of \$ 27,399 for 2020.

The District Secretary will put out an advice to Sub-Branches calling for applications by a date in late June so the District Executive can assess applications at meeting on Saturday 4 July and make recommendations to the District Council at meeting on Saturday 18 July.

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

### **Emergency Welfare**

A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated for Emergency Welfare funding during 2020.

So far this year, no monies have been expended on emergency welfare.

We are now well into 2020 and probably wondering where the first two months of the year have gone.

I am sure time goes quicker as you grow older.

Our 2020 AGM is upon us. We will have RSL Queensland President, Tony Ferris, attending as well as the RSL Queensland Deputy President, John Strachan OAM, and RSL Queensland CEO, Melanie Wilson. There will also be District Presidents from other Districts in Queensland. Take time to make them welcome and chat with them.

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 Dat...	Owner
	1517824	Norman	Cole	17/04/1920	26/02/2020	Yeppoon Sub Branch I...
	1557020	Henry	Griffiths	6/04/1940	17/02/2020	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.
	1760916	John	Griffiths	17/09/1929	17/02/2020	Capricornia & Rockha...
	1020234	Philip	Lahman	7/11/1948	28/01/2020	Yeppoon Sub Branch I...
	1014494	Sheila	Baker	20/08/1924	18/01/2020	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.