

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

1. Monday 3 August, I chaired and participated in a Teams' RSLQ Audit & Risk Committee meeting.
2. With District Vice-President, Phil Luzzi, I traveled to Rockhampton on Wednesday 5 August to meet with State Veteran Services Managers, Michael Masters and Alan Birkenhead, and Rockhampton State VSO staff, to discuss future welfare training courses for the District.
3. Thursday 6 August, I participated in a Teams' special RSLQ Board meeting.
4. In afternoon of Thursday 6 August, I paid a visit to the Emu Park Sub-Branch.
5. Monday 10 August, I participated in a Teams' meeting in relation to the selection of a panel of applicants to be interviewed for positions on the RSLQ Investment Committee.
6. I attended a 75 Year VIP Anniversary Ceremonial Service conducted by the Yeppoon RSL on Saturday 15 August at the Yeppoon Cenotaph and laid a wreath on behalf of the District.
7. On Sunday 16 August, I travelled to Rockhampton to attend the AGM of the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub-Branch.
8. On Tuesday 18 August, I attended a Vietnam Veterans' Day commemorative service at Cockscomb Veterans Retreat at Cawarral and laid a wreath on behalf of the District.
9. Wednesday 19 August, I participated in an RSLQ Districts Presidents Teams' meeting
10. Thursday 20 August, I participate in a Teams' meeting of RSLQ Board.
11. In afternoon of Thursday 20 August, I participated in a Teams' meeting to finalise a short list of applicants for interview for the RSLQ Investment Committee.
12. Travelled to Rockhampton on Friday 21 August to attend a meeting regarding a proposal to construct a Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rockhampton.
13. I travelled to Mackay on Friday 28 August to attend and chair a District Executive meeting.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics August 2020

Voluntary Hours	118.5
Kilometers Travelled	804
Nights Away From Home	1

75th VIP Anniversary Service

As alluded to earlier, I attended a service at the Yeppoon Cenotaph which marked 75 years since the end of World War 2 when the Japanese surrendered unconditionally. I laid a wreath on behalf of the District.

The ODE was read by Yeppoon RSL member and World War 2 veteran, Arthur Prowse, who served in New Guinea. Arthur also laid a wreath on behalf of the Yeppoon Sub Branch.

At the end of the service, Arthur was presented with a DVA World War 2 Medallion and Commemorative Certificate by the Federal Member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry.

I thank the Yeppoon RSL for conducting this service.



Vietnam Veterans Day Service

On Tuesday 18 August, District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, and I attended a Vietnam Veterans Day commemorative service held at Cockscomb Veterans Retreat at Cawarall and I laid a wreath on behalf of the District.

The service was well attended by veterans and local politicians from the Capricorn Coast/Rockhampton area.



A service was also held in Jubilee Park in Mackay to commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day and District Deputy President, John Edwards, attended and laid a wreath on behalf of the District. The service was well attended by veterans and local politicians as well.

COVID-19 Virus

While it is evident that the Queensland Government has been very successful in controlling the virus in our state, it is worrying that the second wave of infections occurring in Victoria and New South Wales may spread across the border to Queensland and force us all back in to lockdown.

I ask Sub Branches and members to please continue to keep observing the social distancing requirements in place. RSL Queensland and District will continue to communicate with the Sub-Branches and the membership regarding Government pronouncements.

2020 State AGM/ Congress

The State AGM scheduled to be held in Brisbane on the week-end 27/28 June and postponed until Sunday 6 September due to the on-going COVID-19 restrictions will now be held on Tuesday 24 November.

Given the present uncertain environment, the current estimations of the duration of the public health restrictions, and the availability of air transport, the RSLQ Board has decided to conduct the AGM by technology.

I provided information to Sub-Branch Delegates in this regard at the District Council meeting at Marian on Saturday 18 July. As explained at the meeting, the meeting will take a hybrid format with S-E Queensland delegates gathering at the Exhibition Centre in Brisbane and the delegates from each of the 5 Regional Districts gathering at venues in their Districts and participating in the meeting in Brisbane via technology.

The State RSL constitution stipulates that a technology meeting can be called with the permission of the Sub-Branch members. However, this permission must be given by all Sub-Branches (100%).

RSL Queensland has provided a communique to Sub branches seeking permission to conduct the AGM in this format and I urge Sub Branches to get their responses in if you have not already done so.

Given the problems that have arisen due to the COVID-19 emergency, I am confident that all the Sub-Branches in the District would support the holding of a technology AGM meeting.

A notice of AGM meeting was forwarded to Sub Branches on 24 August.

Charitable Institution Registration Changes Under Qld Taxation Administration Act 2001

RSL Queensland

RSLQ Board recently asked Sub-Branches to vote on a circular resolution to approve the required constitutional changes to the existing 2015 constitution during July/August.

Under the existing constitution all Sub-Branches need to approve the circular resolution, or the resolution will fail.

At the recent District Council meeting at Marian on Saturday 18 July, the Sub-Branch delegates were asked to vote on the circular resolution. All the 17 Sub-Branch delegates at the meeting signed the resolution on behalf of their Sub-Branch.

Since the meeting, the 5 Sub-Branch Delegates not present at the District Council meeting, have also signed the circular resolution.

I thank all the Sub-Branches in the District for approving the circular resolution.

PFH District Matters

District Executive Meetings

A meeting of the District Executive was held on Friday 28 August.

2020 District Council Meeting Dates

The District Council meetings for the remainder of the year are scheduled as follows:

19 September Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub-Branch

21 November Farleigh & Northern Beaches Sub-Branch (Mackay)

I am pleased to report that RSL Queensland CEO, Melanie Wilson, will be our Guest Speaker at the September District Council meeting. RSL Queensland Vice President, Bill Whitburn OAM, will also attend the meeting.

75th Anniversary of the End of World War 2

An amount of \$20,000 was set aside in the 2020 Budget to help Sub-Branches commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War 2 in August.

It is pleasing to see that the Yeppoon Sub Branch held a Wreath Laying Service on the 75th Anniversary, Saturday 15 August and the Gracemere Sub Branch also held a dinner on Saturday 29th August to commemorate the anniversary.

World War 2 Commemorative Medallions

As advised by the District Secretary at the last District Council meeting, World War 2 veterans are eligible to receive the medallion from DVA.

However, the medallion has to be applied for on the DVA website.

I ask Sub-Branches to take steps to ensure that their World War 2 members apply for the medallion. You may need to assist the families in this regard.

The District Secretary provided a list of eligible members to Sub-Branch delegates at the District Council meeting.

State Board Meeting

A meeting was held via Teams on Thursday 20 August 2020.

Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025

2020 Business Plan

As resources have been diverted to respond to the coronavirus public health emergency and given the expected down turn in the Australian economy, delays to programs planned in Horizon 1 of the 2020 Business Plan and reductions in revenue budget targets were expected.

However, management has now conducted a complete review of the Horizon 1 time lines and has re-forecasted the 2020 Budget which was presented and approved at the July Board meeting. Remarkably, the revenue from the lotteries sales and the Horizon 1 lines has not been materially affected.

Highlights of the 2020 Business Plan were as follows:

1. Lotteries sales were expected to grow from \$130 million in 2019 to over \$150 million, strengthening sustainability.
2. A contingency fund was set aside to fund emergent initiatives identified in the 2025 Strategy. These funds have now been allocated to specific programs in the review.
3. There was to be three major strategic projects in 2020:
 - Reimagining membership.
 - Reinvigorating our brands.
 - Piloting a service hub.

2020 remains 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.

As mentioned earlier, RSL Queensland CEO, Melanie Wilson will attend our District Council meeting in Rockhampton on Saturday 19 September and I have ask her to make a presentation on the RSL Queensland 2025 Strategy and what it means to our Sub Branches.

Investment Strategy/Establishment of Investment Sub-Committee

The RSLQ CFO is presently working with the Audit & Risk Committee in setting up a skills based Investment Sub-Committee.

The Investment Sub-Committee will provide direction and guidance to the Board and Management of RSLQ in the investment of cash and reserves which are surplus to operating requirements, RSL Art Union property prize portfolio purchases, and other business investment opportunities.

RSLQ presently has a large cash reserve figure which will be prudently invested to supplement the revenue stream of the Art Union activities.

At the May Board meeting, the Board approved the Investment Committee's Terms of Reference and an Investment Policy.

The recruitment of appropriately skilled committee members is now in train.

2020 Membership Renewals

Due to problems caused to the Sub-Branches by the coronavirus health emergency, the RSLQ Board decided to extend the membership renewal cut-off date beyond 28 February. No alternative cut-off date has been set at this stage but a date will be set once there is more clarity in relation to the lifting of the public health restrictions.

New State Constitution

A Sub Committee 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 2019 and feedback and comments were 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.

Given the COVID-19 health restrictions the Board has decided that the new draft constitution will not be presented to members until a face to face AGM can be held in 2021.

This will give more time for further consultations with the membership.

RSL Queensland By-Laws

The following by-laws have been updated and were approved by the Board at the July Board meeting:

By-Law 7 - Discipline and Disputes

Changes have been made to the by-law to clarify the processes and discipline matters.

By-Law 1 – Service Membership

The by-law has been updated to conform with the new RSL National by-law which reduces Australian Defence Force service requirements to qualify for RSL membership to 1 day in line with DVA recognition.

The new by-laws are posted on the RSL Queensland website.

Sub Branch Discovery Project

Resulting from the RSL Queensland 2025 Strategy, a new department called Membership and Network has been set up under General Manager, Lisa McIlroy, to provide direction and assistance to the Districts and Sub Branches.

During September, RSL Queensland staff will be contacting a number of Sub Branches seeking information on how Sub Branches can be assisted by this new department. The District Secretary and I will be acting as a liaison between the State Branch officers and your Sub Branch.

On Going Matters and Reminders

Australian Veterans Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) Essay Prize 2020

AVCAT has partnered with the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia and presents the inaugural AVCAT Essay Prize 2020 on the theme "Impact of the Vietnam War on Family".

Entries opened on Vietnam Veterans' Day 18 August 2020 and will close on 16 October 2020.

The District Secretary has forwarded the details to all Sub Branches for promotional purposes.

Please see promotional document attached to newsletter.

District Website/Facebook

Website address is www.rslpfdistrict.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

The Dental Health Program has been incorporated into the new Dental & Allied Health Program which commenced on 1 January 2020.

So far this year, 48 applications have been approved at a cost of \$19,515.74: Dental \$11,115.80, Hearing \$2,933.29, and Optical \$5,466.65.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2020.

So far this year, there have been 13 new alarms issued and 12 renewed at a cost of \$5,675.00.

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, Phil Luzzi and I met with State Veteran Services Managers, Michael Masters and Alan Birkenhead, and Rockhampton VSO officers in early August to discuss the running of further Basic Welfare courses in the District and discuss other District training needs

Donations to Mates4Mates

The District has made a donation of \$5,000 to Mates4Mates in 2020.

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.

Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF)

The District has made a donation of \$5,000 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 this documentation 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, 5 applications have been approved at a cost of \$9,228.80.

Sub-Branch Support Program

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

So far this year, 1 application at a cost of \$330.00 has been made.

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

Sub-Branches that are adversely affected by the coronavirus emergency and are in need of emergency funds to run their Sub-Branches need to consider seeking assistance through this program. Please give me a call to discuss you Sub-Branches' circumstances.

2020 Cadet Funding

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

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

However, due to the coronavirus emergency the closing date for applications has been extended October so that Sub-Branches have more time to liaise with the cadet units.

Emergency Welfare

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

So far this year, \$3,125.08 has been spent on 4 veterans.

Please note that I am taking a week off RSL duties from Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September. Every year I recharge my batteries by returning to my home town of Mount Molloy on the Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland and go camping for 4 nights on the Mitchell River with my brother, Alan, and my cousin, Fred. If you have any urgent matters that need attention, please contact District Secretary, Lynette, or Deputy District President, John Edwards.

Given that Victoria and New South Wales are struggling to contain the spread of COVID-19 at present and Queensland is locked in a dire battle to stop a second wave of infections at our borders, the health emergency is far from over. I continue to ask Sub-Branch Presidents and their Executive members to be on the lookout for veterans and RSL members who are doing it tough as a result of this current public health emergency. I know that this is a challenge given that a large number of our members are in the age group vulnerable to the severe health complications that can be caused by the virus.

The District and State are in a position to provide financial resources if funds are needed.

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

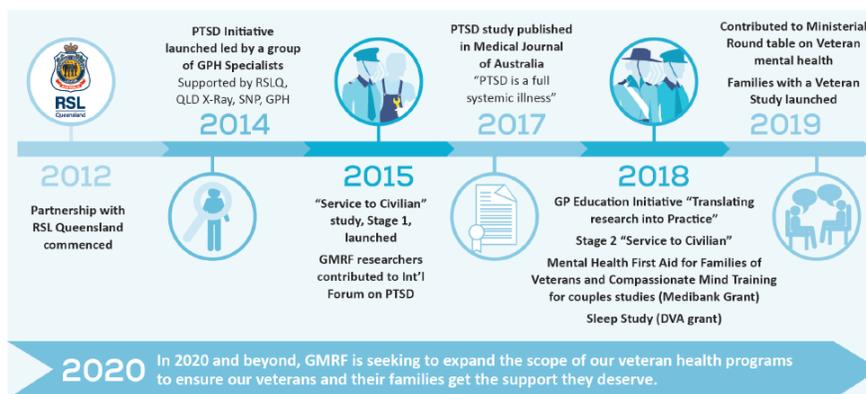
Member ID	First Name	Surname	Date of Birth	Deceased Da	Owner	Last Financia
1016530	Geoffrey	Vardy	25/01/1935	24/08/2020	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc	SM2016
1003293	Kenneth	Cherry	26/03/1937	1/08/2020	Farleigh & Northern Be	SMLIFE

GALLIPOLI MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Side by side for our veterans



Since 2012, the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation has partnered with RSL Queensland in research aimed at addressing the health issues impacting the Defence community. Together we will enhance the health and wellbeing of our veterans and their families.



Find out more about our work at www.gallipoliresearch.com.au
Follow us on Facebook for our latest news and research updates!

Creating a better future for our veterans through research



In partnership with RSL Queensland, the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation is working to enhance the health and wellbeing of our veterans and their families through medical research.

90% of veterans with PTSD have trouble sleeping

"I have been able to have the energy to do things that I haven't done in years."
Veteran Sleep Therapy Study Participant

"As our research progressed, it became clear we need to look at prevention, not just 'cure'. We want to prevent difficulties from occurring in the first place and give members the best chance to have a successful and healthy transition."
Dr Madeline Romaniuk

"Our research team has a strong clinical background. We've seen the issues our veterans are facing firsthand. This is the basis of our research to address real needs with real solutions."
Dr Justine Evans

78% of veterans report a difficult transition to civilian life.

With RSL Queensland, we are developing innovative tools to ensure veterans and current service personnel in the process of transitioning get the support they need.

COMMITTED TO RESEARCH THAT REALLY MATTERS

Our PTSD Initiative demonstrated that PTSD is a systemic illness that impacts and increases risk factors of the liver, gut health, heart, lung and quality of sleep.

"We're working collaboratively with the Australian Defence Force, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and Ex-Service Organisations to improve care coordination for military and veteran families. Our work could make a real difference in the lives of these families by helping them to access support when they need it most".
Angela Maguire

Find out more about our work at www.gallipoliresearch.com.au
Follow us on Facebook for our latest news and research updates!

AVCAT



Essay Prize 2020

AVCAT presents the inaugural
AVCAT Essay Prize 2020
on the theme:

'Impact of the Vietnam War on Family'

Entries open on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2020
and close midnight 16 October 2020.

First Prize: \$500
Second Prize \$200
Third Prize \$100

The AVCAT Essay Prize is open to all entrants over the age of 18 at
18 August 2020. Essays should be up to 2500 addressing the theme
'Impact of the Vietnam War on Families'.

avcat.org.au

Contest guidelines and entry form online at avcat.org.au.