

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

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

1. On Wednesday 11 November, I attended a Remembrance Day Commemorative Service at Emu Park and laid a wreath on behalf of the District.
2. Together with State President, Tony Ferris, I attended a Centenary Commemorative Dinner for the Yeppoon Sub Branch on the evening of Saturday 14 November.
3. I travelled to Brisbane on Wednesday morning of 18 November and attended a District Presidents' meeting.
4. While in Brisbane I attended an RSLQ Board meeting on Thursday 19 November and I attended and chaired a RSLQ Investment Committee meeting on Friday 20 November.
5. I travelled to Mackay on Monday 23 November to attend the RSL Queensland AGM on the morning of Tuesday 24 November and attend and chair a District Council meeting in the afternoon.
6. While in Mackay, I worked in the District Office on Wednesday 25 November.
7. On Monday 30 November, I travelled to Brisbane to attend a Mates4Mates Board meeting.
8. On Wednesday 2 December, I travelled to Mackay to attend a dinner at which the State President, Tony Ferris, presented an RSL National ANZAC of the Year Award to teacher, Mike Goodwin, from the Mackay North State High School.
9. On Saturday 5 December, I attended a BBQ which was hosted by the Yeppoon Sub Branch for the riders in the Young Veterans & Patriots Charity Ride.

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

Voluntary Hours	156.5
Kilometers Travelled	1254
Nights Away From Home	6

Remembrance Day Services

I attended the service held by my home Sub Branch, Emu Park, and laid a wreath on behalf of the District. It felt good to be at a function where I could mix and talk to the veterans, rather than watch the service on a computer screen.

It was a very moving service for about 150 people which included 12 members of the SAS Association from Brisbane. The Sub Branch put on a lunch for those who stayed on.

It was pleasing to learn at the recent District Council meeting about the services that were held by other Sub Branches in the District.

Centenary Commemorative Dinner for Yeppoon Sub Branch

On Saturday evening of 14 November, together with State President, Tony Ferris, I attended the Centenary Commemorative Dinner for the Yeppoon Sub Branch.

It is an extraordinary achievement to commemorate 100 years of existence as a Sub Branch and I congratulate President Bill Tahu and his members, on reaching this milestone.

The dinner was well run and very successful.

I also like to thank our State President, Tony Ferris, for taking the time to travel from Brisbane and being the Keynote Speaker on the night.

Young Veterans and Patriots Charity Ride

The Young Veterans of Central Queensland recently organized a Young Veterans & Patriots Charity Ride with the aim of raising the awareness of mental health issues among veterans both young and old.

There was a significant contribution from The Patriots who joined the Ride from Shoalwater Bay, Gladstone, Gympie, Mackay, Brisbane, and Toowoomba.

The Yeppoon RSL hosted the riders on Saturday 5 December.

The District provided a grant of \$2,510 from the Charitable Objectives Fund which allowed the Yeppoon Sub Branch to provide a BBQ lunch, non-alcoholic refreshments, and entertainment on the day.

I attended the BBQ lunch and mixed with the riders.

This was a great initiative and I would like to thank the Yeppoon Sub Branch for hosting the day and the young veteran members of the Yeppoon RSL, particularly Kayla Bartrim, who did a lot of the organization for the day.

RSL Queensland AGM Tuesday 24 November

The District had 16 Sub Branch delegates attend the hybrid/technology meeting at Harrup Park in Mackay.

While the AGM agenda only contained the statutory matters required under the constitution due to the coronavirus emergency, it was my view that the new concept was successful and the meeting efficiently achieved what was needed.

One can only hope that we will be able to have a full face to face meeting next year so the new constitution can be placed before the membership.



2020 ANZAC of Year Award

You may recall that it was announced before ANZAC Day this year that Mike Goodwin OAM, was named one of the ANZAC of the Year Awardees for 2020 by RSL National.

At the time it received wide coverage in the media but due to COVID 19 we were unable to present Mike with the award.

Mike was nominated for the Award by our District Deputy President, John Edwards, and the nomination was fully supported by the District.

As a number of you will already know, Mike is a teacher at the Mackay North State School where he founded the Lest We Forget program 22 years ago. The program encourages students to preserve the memory of those who served in the Australian Armed forces and sacrificed their lives for our country. It is a novel way to educate students about Australia's war history.



Over the time the program has been running, more than 850 service personnel have been honoured by the students taking part in the 10 biennial Commemorative Tours that visited 180 cemeteries in five countries.

On Wednesday 2 December, State President, Tony Ferris, travelled to Mackay and presented Mike with the trophy at a small dinner in the evening.

I am sure you will agree that Mike is a worthy winner and join with me in congratulating him on winning this prestigious award.



COVID-19 Virus

It now seems evident that the States now have control over local virus infections and restrictions will continue to be eased and state borders will be opened by Christmas.

However, we need to be on guard about complacency and I ask Sub Branches and members to please continue to keep observing the social distancing requirements in place.

PFH District Matters

District Executive Meetings

A District Executive meeting was held on Friday 30 October.

District Council Meetings.

A District Council meeting was held in Mackay following the State AGM on Tuesday 24 November.

Winding up of Sarina Sub Branch

At the AGM of the Sarina Sub Branch held on Saturday 25 July, regrettably members took the hard decision to wind up the Sub Branch due to insolvency matters and this is proceeding.

RSL members in the Sarina area wish to open a new Sub Branch entity once the winding up matter is attended to and at the September meeting the District Council accepted a District Executive recommendation to support and facilitate a request for RSL Queensland consent in principle to establish a new Sub Branch in Sarina.

We await approval from RSL Queensland.

Amalgamation of the Two Rockhampton Sub Branches

The Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch has been struggling with its governance since their long term President and Secretary died about two years ago. This year at the AGM they were unable to elect a management committee.

The District had previously met with the management committee and outlined their options for survival. The Sub Branch then approached the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch about an amalgamation of the two Sub Branches and both Sub Branches agreed in principle to the proposal.

At September meeting District Council accepted a District Executive recommendation to support and facilitate a request for RSL Queensland consent in principle to a proposed amalgamation of the two sub Branches.

At RSL Queensland Board meeting on Thursday 22 October, approval in principle was given for the two Sub Branches to amalgamate.

The District is in the process of seeking legal advice on behalf of the Sub Branches regarding the way the amalgamation will be effected.

State Board Meeting and Related Matters

A meeting was held via Teams on Thursday 19 November 2020.

Investment Strategy/Establishment of Investment Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee is now operating and the first meeting was held on Friday 20 November.

Board Sub-Committees

A review of the Board's Sub-Committees has been recently carried out and the Board has made the following changes:

Lotteries Committee

The Board is considering whether the committee should function as a Management committee rather than a Board committee.

Constitution & Awards Committee

The Board has decided to add governance to the responsibilities of the Committee and will be renamed the **Governance, Constitution & Awards Committee**.

Veteran Services & Policy Committee

The Board has decided that this new committee be established to focus on the ongoing needs of veterans.

RSLQ Managed IT Service Pilot Project

RSLQ is looking to roll out a Managed IT Service Program for the Districts and Sub Branches in 2021.

The program will offer and fund the following services as part of the program to Districts and Sub Branches:

- Laptops .
- Office 365 Licensing.
- Phone Service via Teams.
- Managed Photocopier.
- Managed network and Wi-Fi.
- Teams room based video conferencing camera.
- Access to the State IT Service Delivery Team for end to end support on the above items.

Initially, a Pilot Program will roll out in November and December with one Sub Branch from each of the 10 Districts.

The Gracemere Sub Branch has been chosen as the PFH District site to participate in the Pilot Program and I thank the Sub Branch for agreeing to do so.

Further, Sub Branches can apply to State Branch through District to have an internet service connection installed.

New State Constitution

The Constitution Sub Committee has now finalised a draft of the new constitution which used the 2015 constitution as a base.

Previously, a working draft of the new 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.

Sub Branch will be given further opportunity to comment further on the current draft constitution in the New Year.

It is intended that a proposed new constitution be presented to members at the 2021 AGM in June 2021 for approval or otherwise.

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/October, RSL Queensland staff visited a number of Sub Branches seeking information on how Sub Branches can be assisted by this new Department. The District Secretary and I have acted as a liaison between the State Branch officers and your Sub Branch.

The RSL Queensland Head of Membership Services, Teresa Brook, together with myself and/or the District Secretary, Lynette Phillips, paid visits to the following 5 Sub Branches up to the end of October:

1. Emu Park
2. Yeppoon
3. Marian
4. Finch Hatten
5. Mackay

I thank those Sub Branches for participating in these meetings and hosting us on the day.

The other Sub Branches in the District will be afforded visits in the near future.

On Going Matters and Reminders

RSL Ties and Scarfs

As advised at District Council meeting in Rockhampton on Saturday 19 September, RSL Queensland has decided to provide new members with an RSL tie or scarf in their new membership kit.

Further, existing members will be provided with an RSL tie or scarf on request.

Can Sub Branches provide to the District Secretary the names of their members who wish to avail of the offer.

State has advised that ties and scarfs inventory is not available at this time.

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

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

So far this year, 72 applications have been approved at a cost of \$28,781.59: Dental \$16,737.55, Hearing \$3,980.54, and Optical \$8,063.50.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2020.

So far this year, there have been 19 new alarms issued, 14 renewals, and 1 upgrade at a cost of \$8,285.00.

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.

It is unlikely any training programs will be provided before next year.

Donations to Mates4Mates

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

The donation this year was used by Mates4Mates to assist with their National Appeal Fundraising Day which raised \$106,000 and the District was shown as a supporter on the campaign material .

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.

We have been advised by GMRF that in view of the District's donations to date, the District will be acknowledged on their Fundraising Board which is sited in the foyer of the Greenslopes Hospital.

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, 9 applications have been approved at a cost of \$31,897.40.

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.

2020 Cadet Funding

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

Of these funds, \$24,012.03 has been distributed to the Cadet Units in the District. The \$3,012.03 not allocated will be carried over to 2021 funding.

Left: Marian Sub Branch President John Edwards presenting a Chq to the Sarina 131 Army Cadet Unit.



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.

This will be the District's last newsletter for 2020 and there will be no newsletter for January 2021.

The Christmas/New Year holiday period is now upon us and I take this opportunity to wish all the RSL members in the District a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

To all the Sub Branch Committee members, I urge you to take the opportunity to have a restful break from your RSL duties with your families. 2020 has been a year like no other and I know we all wish, that in the 2021, the world will move on from this coronavirus emergency and we will get back to some semblance of a normal life.

I will catch up with as many members as I can in the New Year.

Given the adverse effects of COVID -19, I again ask Sub-Branch Presidents and their Executive members to be on the lookout for veterans and RSL members who are doing it tough.

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

Remember, the District is here to help in any way we can.

Kindest regards

Barry Vains OAM

District President

The Last Post

Membership ID	First Name	Last Name	Owner	Last Financial	Deceased Date
1015471	John	McNeill	Farleigh & Northern	SM2020	13/11/2020
1182931	Alan	Sherwell	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE	26/10/2020
1518579	Lillian	Faulkner	Sarina Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE	18/11/2020
2431420	Richard	Weber	Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc.	SMLIFE	7/11/2020

Office Closure

The RSL PFH DISTRICT OFFICE will be closed from:

Friday 18th December 2020

And will reopen

Monday 18th January 2021

*If you have an urgent enquiry please call
the District President on 0439 658 606 or
RSL QLD Branch on 3634 9444*



*The RSL VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE will be closed
from:*

Friday 18th December 2020

And will reopen

Monday 11th January 2021

*If you have an urgent enquiry please call
RSL Qld Branch on 3634 9444.*