

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

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

1. I attended a meeting of Sarina RSL members in Sarina on Sunday 14 February at which a Steering Group was elected to prepare for the establishment of a new Sub Branch in Sarina.
2. I travelled to Brisbane on Monday 15 February for a Mates4Mates Board meeting.
3. Together with RSL Queensland Network and Membership Support staff, Chrissie Drewitt and Nicole Ramsay, and District Secretary, Lynette Phillips, we undertook Discovery Visits to Springsure, Emerald, Clermont, and Gemfields Sub Branches from Friday 19/ Saturday 20 February.
4. Together with District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, we attended the Emerald Sub Branch AGM on the evening of Monday 22 February.
5. I travelled to Brisbane for a joint RSL Queensland/Mates4Mates Boards meeting and District Presidents' meeting on Wednesday 24 February.
6. While in Brisbane, I attended an RSLQ Board meeting and Mates4Mates Risk & Audit Committee meeting on Thursday 25 February.
7. I travelled to Mackay on Friday 26 February to attend and chair a District Executive meeting.
8. On Sunday 28 February, I attended the AGM and general meeting of the Emu Park RSL Sub Branch.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics

February 2021

Voluntary Hours	200.0
Kilometers Travelled	3836
Nights Away From Home	11

ANZAC Day 2021

The Queensland Premier announced on Tuesday 23 February that ANZAC Day commemorations could go ahead in Queensland.

Directions from Queensland Health have now been provided to the Sub Branches by RSL Queensland in regard COVID requirements.

From directions provided, organisers of events involving more than 1500 people will need to lodge a COVID Plan to Queensland Health for approval.

It is important that Sub Branches look out for our elder members at this time as they remain vulnerable to this virus.

RSL Queensland will also promote the Light up the Dawn program that ran so successfully last year.

Australia Day 2021 Honours List

The President of the Mackay Sub Branch, Ken Higgins, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division for services to veterans and their families.

I have written a letter of congratulations to Ken on behalf of the District.

PFH District Matters

Next District Meetings

District Executive

A meeting was held on Friday 26 February.

2021 AGM

The AGM will be hosted by the Yeppoon Sub Branch on Saturday 27 March.

The Deputy President Executive position comes up for re-election at the AGM. Nominations for the position closed on Friday 26 February with one nomination being received. The nomination was from incumbent Deputy President, John Edwards.

The following RSL Queensland personnel:

State President, Tony Ferris
Vice State President, Bill Whitburn OAM
RSL Queensland CEO, Melanie Wilson
RSL Queensland General Manager, Membership and Network, Lisa McIlroy.

will be attending as well as some other personnel from the Membership and Network Department.

District Council

The next meeting will held in Yeppoon following the State AGM on Saturday 27 March.

Meetings for Remainder of Year

District Executive

Friday 16 April
Friday 25 June
Friday 27 August
Friday 29 October

District Council

Saturday 8 May at Gracemere
Saturday 17 July at Finch Hatton
Saturday 18 September at Emu Park
Saturday 20 November at Farleigh Northern Beaches

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 2020 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.

At the December 2020 meeting, the RSL Queensland Board gave approval in principle for the establishment of a new Sub Branch in Sarina.

As alluded to earlier, I attended a meeting of Sarina RSL members on Sunday 14 February, at which a Steering Group was elected to prepare for the establishment of the new Sub Branch.

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 over two years ago. At the 2020 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 2020 meeting, the 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 2020, 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 on Thursday 25 February 2021.

2021 Business Plan and Budget

The Board approved the 2021 Business plan and Budget at the December 2020 meeting.

2021 is the 2nd year of the execution of RSL Queensland's 2025 Strategy.

This year is another important foundational year that will continue to see RSL Queensland **“secure the future of the members in Queensland by reimagining the membership model and reinvigorating our brands”** whilst commencing work to **“significantly improve veteran Quality of Life in Queensland by improving services and enhanced coalition support systems to veterans”**.

All initiatives being delivered in 2021 are centered around our purpose to ensure **“A bright future and enduring legacy for all veterans and their families”** and our journey towards our vision of becoming **“the most valued and trusted partner to enrich the Australian Defence Family’s Quality of Life”**.

The Business Plan will continue to focus on the District and Sub Branch network and improve the support of the network via the following strategic initiatives:

1. Complete new Member Value Proposition and Membership Model and roll-out later in 2021.
2. Complete Network Discovery and continue building trust in network, continue to deliver value through tactical initiatives and design and commence roll-out of Sub Branch product suite (including Managed IT services).
3. Finalise Veteran Services Strategy and design and commence Roll-out of new services.
4. Launch Brisbane North Service Hub.

The RSL Art Union will continue to sustain these new initiatives with ticket sales expected to pass \$200 million.

RSLQ Managed IT Service Pilot Project

In terms of the 2021 Business Plan, RSLQ will 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 was rolled-out in November and December 2020 with one Sub Branch from each of the 10 Districts.

The Gracemere Sub Branch was 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 and is posted on the RSLQ website.

Members can now go to the RSL Queensland Website and comment on the current draft constitution by going to www.rslqld.org and scroll across to ‘About Us’ to drop down to 2020 constitution link.

At this stage, it is intended that a proposed new constitution be presented to members at the 2021 AGM 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 2020, 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 acted as a liaison between the State Branch officers and these Sub Branches.

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 2020:

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

On Friday 19/Saturday 20 February, Membership and Network personnel, Chrissie Drewitt and Nicole Ramsay, District Secretary, Lynette Phillips and myself carried out Discovery visits to Springsure, Emerald, Clermont, and Gemfields Sub Branches.

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

Further visits to Sub Branches in the Mackay District are planned for the first half of March.

On Going Matters and Reminders

RSL Ties and Scarfs

As advised at District Council meeting in Rockhampton on Saturday 19 September 2020, 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.

Supplies of ties and scarfs are expected to be available during March.

Can Sub Branches, who have not already done so, provide to the District Secretary the names of their members who wish to avail of the offer.

ANZAC Day Merchandise

In early February, a communication went to Sub Branches via the District advising that RSL Queensland will be refunding the Sub Branches for their ANZAC Day merchandise purchase costs.

A claim form was provided with the communication.

A claim can also be made for 2020 purchases as well given that ANZAC Day did not go ahead due to COVID.

Sub Branches are reminded to submit their claims via the District Secretary.

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.

The program is permanent and will continue in 2021.

For 2021 year to date, 18 applications have been approved at a cost of \$6,649.25: Dental \$3,919.25, Hearing \$1,000.00, and Optical \$1,730.00.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and will continue in 2021.

For 2021 year to date, 3 new alarms have been issued at a cost of \$1,185.00.

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 is in the process of organising training courses that will provide a First Aid & Defib certificates for Sub Branch members and has contacted a number of Sub Branches.

A course has been held at the Emu Park RSL for 14 participants and was well received.

Donations to Mates4Mates

The District has provided for a donation of \$5,000 to Mates4Mates in the 2021 Budget for approval at the District AGM on 27 March.

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 provided for a donation of \$5,000 to GMRF in the 2021 Budget for approval at the District AGM on 27 March..

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 Defence Forces 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 by RSL Queensland to the District for 2021.

In 2021 year to date, 1 application from the Sub Branches has been approved at a cost of \$975.00. When we add in the spending in relation to the District's Dental and Allied Health Subsidy Program and the Live Life Alarms Program, \$8,809.25 of the fund have been spent in 2021 year to date.

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.

Sub-Branch Support Program

Funding will be available in 2021 through this program for those Sub-Branches in financial need.

For 2021 year to date, no applications have been approved.

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

2021 Cadet Funding

State Branch provided funding of \$27,000 for 2021.

Applications are in the process of being called via the Sub Branches.

Emergency Welfare

A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated for Emergency Welfare funding during 2021.

For 2021 year to date, no funding has been expended.

With the commencement of the vaccination program in Australia we are all hoping that during 2021, the world will move on from this coronavirus emergency, and we will get back to some semblance of a normal life.

As advised in my last newsletter, I intend to catch up with as many members as I can during 2021 by attending Sub Branch AGMs and commemorative events throughout the District. If I cannot attend, then I will strive to get other District Executive members to attend and represent the District. If you have not already done so, then please advise the District Secretary the date of your AGM.

2021 is the 2nd year of the RSL Queensland 2025 Strategy and this will bring extensive change to all levels of the RSL in Queensland. A very important initiative is the roll out of the Membership Valuation Proposition during the year. A presentation will be made by RSL Queensland CEO, Melanie Wilson, and Membership and Network General Manager, Lisa McIlroy, to Sub Branch delegates at the District Council meeting following the District AGM on 27 March.

The RSL Queensland's 2021 Business Plan includes many initiatives and programs that will be rolled out to the Districts and Sub Branches during the year to assist them continue to operate and serve their members and communities. This will make 2021 a very challenging year for us all.

Remember, the District is the linchpin between RSL Queensland and the Sub Branches and we are here to help in any way we can.

Kindest regards

Barry Vains OAM

District President

The Last Post

Membership ID	First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	Owner	Deceased Date
1019457	Kathleen	Lewis	20/05/1924	Capricornia & Rockhampton	Unconfirmed
1342378	Ian	Power	28/12/1927	Capricornia & Rockhampton	16/02/2021

