

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

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

1. On Monday 2 August, I participated in and chaired an RSLQ Audit & Risk Committee meeting via TEAMS.
2. I travelled to Emu Park and with others on site, met with the Mayor of Livingstone Shire Council, Andy Ireland, to discuss proposed extension to the Emu Park Centenary of ANZAC Memorial.
3. On Tuesday 10 August participated in a TEAMS meeting with Geoff Wohlsen to consider draft District Strategic Plan 2021-2026.
4. On Wednesday 11 August, I participated in a special RSLQ Board meeting via TEAMS regarding future operating model for RSL Queensland.
5. On Friday 13 August, as a member of the RSLQ Investment committee, I participated in a workshop with consultants Willis Towers Watson via TEAMS.
6. I travelled to Brisbane on Monday 16 August as a member of the Board of Mates4Mates to attend a presentation by KPMG on the RSLQ future operating model and meet with the RSL Queensland Board Executive.
7. I participated in a Mates4Mates Special Board meeting via TEAMS on Tuesday 17 August.
8. I attended a Vietnam Veterans Day commemoration service on Wednesday 18 August at the Emu Park RSL Sub Branch and delivered the keynote address.
9. I travelled to Mackay and worked in the District Office with the District Secretary on Thursday 19/Friday 20 August.
10. On Monday 23 August, I participated in a catch-up meeting via TEAMS with General Manager Network and Membership, Lisa McIlroy.
11. I travelled to Brisbane to attend a Future of the League SeeChange Workshop and District Presidents' meeting on Wednesday 25 August, and a RSLQ Board meeting on Thursday 26 August.
12. I travelled to Mackay to attend and chair a District Executive meeting on Saturday 28 August.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics

August 2021

Voluntary Hours	151.5
Kilometers Travelled	1451
Nights Away from Home	5

Promotion for our District Secretary

It was announced at the District Council meeting at Finch Hatton on Saturday 17 July that our District Secretary, Lynette Phillips, would be relieving in a District Network Manager position with RSL Queensland for the next 3 months.

I am delighted to announce that Lynette has been offered this position on a permanent basis and she has accepted the position.

The good news is that in her position as a District Network Manager, she will have responsibility for PFH as well as another district and will be based in the District Office in Mackay.

Lynette will also be in a position to assist me with the recruitment and induction of a new District Secretary.

Belinda McMahon commenced duties as a temporary clerical on 16 August to assist with the District Secretary duties.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Lynette on her promotion within RSL Queensland and welcoming Belinda to the District.

Member 100 Years of Age Certificates

Two of our RSL members turned 100 years of age during the month and RSL Queensland provided them with a certificate to mark the occasion.

Peter Holack

Peter is a World War 2 veteran and turned 100 years of age on Friday 20 August. He served in the Army during World War 2 and has been a member of the Mackay Sub Branch since 1988.

The President of the Sub Branch, Ken Higgins OAM, and member Graham Jackson, made a presentation to Peter in the presence of his family on the day at Resthaven Home in Mackay. I thank Ken for also presenting the RSL Queensland Certificate to Peter on my behalf.



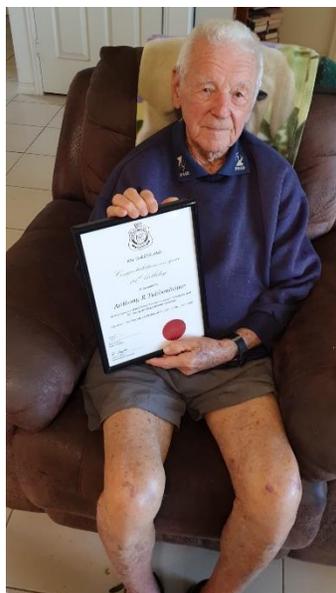
Back L-R Mr Holack's daughter Robynn Newman, Ken Higgins OAM, Member Graham Jackson in attendance.

Media Link: <https://www.mackayandwhitsundaylife.com/article/happiest-of-birthdays-to-you-lance-corporal>

Anthony Tubbenhauer

Anthony is a World War 2 veteran and turned 100 years of age on 26 August. He served in the RAAF during World War 2 and has been a member of the Emu Park Sub Branch since 2002.

Anthony was presented with his RSL Queensland Certificate by the President of the Emu Park Sub Branch, Darryl Dwyer, and I thank Darryl for doing so on my behalf.



Vietnam Veterans Day Services

I had the pleasure of giving the keynote address at the Emu Park Memorial Service. In full, it can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/EPRSL>

Or on the Emu Park Sub Branch website <https://www.emuparkrsl.org.au/vietnam-veterans-day-18-august-2021/>
A small number of veterans and community members were in attendance and the Sub Branch put on a BBQ lunch.

Photos below are from the formalities of Vietnam Veterans Day Service at Emu Park.



Below are the Vietnam Veterans Day Service participants at Mirani RSL Sub Branch



Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch – Luncheon

As advised in previous newsletters, the membership of the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch has been merged into the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch.

A luncheon was held at the Frenchville Club in Rockhampton on Sunday 29 August to provide an opportunity for the new members to meet existing members.

The luncheon was organized by District Network Manager, Lynette Phillips, and District Membership Experience Specialist, Nicole Ramsey, in conjunction with the Sub Branch President, Tiny Clark, and Sub Branch Secretary, Lyn Clark.

There was around 40 at the luncheon and by all reports everyone had a good time.

I was unable to attend and I thank District Vice President, Phil Luzzi, for stepping in and representing the District.



Luncheon attendees & Membership Experience Specialist Nicole Ramsay, Capricornia Sub Branch President Mr Tiny Clark and Secretary Mrs Lyn Clark

Amalgamation of the Two Rockhampton Sub Branches

At RSL Queensland Board meeting held on Thursday 22 April 2021, it was decided that:

1. Members of the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch will be given the option to transfer their membership to the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch or a Sub Branch of their choice.
2. The Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch will be wound up and any surplus funds after the wind up, will be transferred to the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch.

The transfer of members of the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch to the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch has now taken place.

Steps are now being taken to wind up the Rockhampton Combined Services Sub Branch.

A luncheon for members was organized for Sunday 29 August to allow the new members to meet the existing members.

Remembrance Day Merchandise

In terms of policy adopted by State Branch this year in relation to the refunding of ANZAC Day merchandise costs for the Sub Branches, State Branch will be refunding Remembrance Day merchandising costs as well.

The system to be put in place is presently being worked out and an advice in this regard will follow in the next few weeks.

New Home for Mackay Sub Branch

The Mackay Sub Branch now have a point of presence in premises in Sydney Street Mackay which the Sub Branch will be operating out of.

State Branch has installed the IT services to the premises under the RSL Managed IT Services program being presently rolled out to the Sub Branches.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the President, Ken Higgins OAM, and his members for showing such initiative and providing a home for their Sub Branch.

Veterans Health Week 16/24 October 2021

Don't forget Veterans Health Week.

Fundraising Manager Network, Deborah Scott-Ranson, recently put out an email to Sub Branches providing details of a DVA Veteran Health Grant for \$720 to assist with the funding of activities during Veterans Health Week.

Sub Branches are encouraged to apply for the grant and plan activities for the week.

SAVE THE DATE! Free movie night.

Last years event was such a big success, we will be holding it again this year. More details to come.

Save the date

19th Oct 2021 @ Harrup Park



Veterans Health Week FREE Movie Night

75th Anniversary of Marian Sub Branch

The Marian Sub Branch will commemorate its 75th Anniversary of its existence on Saturday 4 September with a commemorative function at the Marian Community War Memorial Hall.

I am sure you join with me in congratulating President, John Edwards, and his members in reaching this historical milestone.

Walkerston/Pleystowe Sub Branch – Commemorative Dinner

The Walkerston/Pleystowe Sub Branch is holding a commemorative dinner on Saturday 16 October to mark the end of the 20 years of the deployment of Australian forces in Afghanistan.

All the Afghanistan veterans in the Mackay region are invited to the dinner. There is no cost to attend.

If you know an Afghanistan veteran, then can you please tell him about the dinner and get him to contact Rod Francisco at the Sub Branch, rod.francisco@walkerston.rslqld.net.au for details.



 **Open invitation and welcome to all Afghanistan Veterans.** 

It was October 2001 when the first Australian troops deployed to Afghanistan and after 20 years and 41 lives lost later, all Australian troops have been withdrawn in 2021.

The Walkerston/Pleystowe RSL Sub-Branch invites you to commemorate and recognize the service and sacrifice of those who served in Afghanistan with a dinner and commemorative service to be conducted at the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel Walkerston and ANZAC Park on the 16th October 2021.

Dress will be jacket and miniatures.

The Evening will consist of:

- Pre-dinner drinks
- Walk to ANZAC Park for a commemorative service including roll call
- Dinner
- Keynote speaker – Brigadier Smeaton
- Reflections and anecdotes

Please RSVP by the Monday 27 September 2021:

Rod Francisco: rod.francisco@walkerston.rslqld.net.au
Dan Peters: daniel.peters@walkerston.rslqld.net.au

Please note that you are not required to be an RSL member to attend this event as it is open to all Afghanistan Veterans.

PFH District Matters

Recent District Meetings

District Executive

The last meeting was held on Saturday 28 August.

District Council

The next meeting will be held at Gracemere on Saturday 18 September.

The following guests from State will be attending the meeting:

Bill Whitburn OAM	State Vice President and Chair of Constitution Working Group
Simon Button	Chief Information & Strategic Officer (CISO)
Lisa McIlroy	General Manager Network & Membership

Sub Branch delegates, remember to have your questions ready on the constitution, in particular in relation to:

1. The skills based board.
2. Member value proposition.
3. New RSL objectives.

as Bill, Simon, and Lisa will be there to answer your questions.

Meetings for Remainder of Year

District Executive

Saturday 29 October

District Council

Saturday 18 September at Gracemere

Saturday 20 November at Emu Park

Winding up of Sarina Sub Branch

At the AGM of the Sarina Sub Branch held on Saturday 25 July 2020, 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 is approved by the court and at the December 2020 meeting, the RSL Queensland Board gave approval in principle for the establishment of a new Sub Branch in Sarina.

I attended a meeting of Sarina RSL members on Sunday 14 February 2021 at which a Steering Group was elected to prepare for the establishment of the new Sub Branch.

The decision of the court in relation to winding up of Sub Branch/Club is awaited.

State Board Meeting and Related Matters

A meeting was held on Thursday 26 August 2021.

RSL Queensland AGM

As previously advised, the Board has decided to delay the AGM until Wednesday 8/Thursday 9 December and has the approval of the ACNC to do so.

Member Value Proposition (MPV)

A presentation outlining how the proposed MPV is intended to operate was made at District Council meeting held on 27 March and a fact sheet is being progressively updated for member information.

If members are to accept this MVP proposal, then the draft RSL Queensland constitution incorporating the necessary changes will need to be adopted at the 2021 RSL Queensland AGM.

RSLQ Managed IT Service Project

In terms of the 2021 RSL Queensland Business Plan, RSLQ is presently rolling out a Managed IT Service Program to the Districts and Sub Branches. Some District Sub Branches will have already received their hardware and software with others to be accommodated by the end of the year.

The program offers and funds 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.

New State Constitution

Final submissions from members have now closed and the Constitution Working Party has processed these submissions and now finalized the draft constitution.

The draft constitution went to the RSL Queensland Board meeting on 26 August for approval and has now been posted on the RSL Queensland website and will be the draft presented at the State AGM in December for approval or otherwise.

The AGM Notice of meeting will be now be issued.

Please note that Committee Chair, Bill Whitburn OAM, is providing a fortnightly update communication to members who have an email address recorded on their membership records.

Bill, with an independent member of the Constitution Working Party, will attend the District Council meeting to be held on Saturday 18 September at the Gracemere Sub Branch to answer any questions on the draft constitution.

District Discovery Visit

As advised previously, District Secretary and I participated in a Discovery visit by RSL State personnel on 10 June.

I participated in a workshop in Brisbane on Thursday 22 July with all the District Presidents regarding the results of the District Discovery visits.

A further workshop was held with the District Presidents on Wednesday 26 August.

I want to make it abundantly clear that Districts are not being abolished and will remain and continue to be the link between State Branch and the Sub Branches.

On Going Matters and Reminders

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 temporary District Secretary, Belinda McMahon, for placing on the district website and facebook page.

Dental & Allied Health Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2021.

For 2021 year to date, 54 applications have been approved at a cost of \$22,714.00: Dental \$10,149.75, Hearing \$4,279.55, and Optical \$8,284.70.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2021.

For 2021 year to date, 12 new alarms have been issued, 18 recharged and 1 replaced, at a cost of \$6,887.00.

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 was held at the Emu Park RSL for 14 participants and was well received.

Phil is also in discussions with RSL State regarding the running of a 4 hour Welfare Support Officer training course which was recently run in Mackay for Sub Branch members, in other areas of the District.

Donations to Mates4Mates

The District made a donation of \$5,000 to Mates4Mates in terms of the approved 2021 Budget.

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 made a donation of \$5,000 to GMRF in terms of the approved 2021 Budget.

RSL Queensland has donated considerable funds to GMRF over recent years to enable the completion of the Vietnam Veterans PTSD study. Further, State has also funded a study into the transition of servicemen and women from the Defence Force 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, 11 applications from the Sub Branches has been approved at a cost of \$42,971.53. When we add in the spending in relation to the District's Dental and Allied Health Subsidy Program and the Live Life Alarms Program, \$72,572.53 of the fund have been spent in 2021 year to date.

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 is available in 2021 through this program for those Sub-Branches in financial need.

For 2021 year to date, 1 application have been approved at a cost of \$4,750.00.

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 through the Sub Branches closed on Friday 18 June in time for District Executive to review applications for around \$53,000 at Saturday 26 June meeting and made recommendations to the District Council meeting on Saturday 17 July regarding the allocation of the funds.

The District decided to provide a further \$5,847.70 of funds and the recommended allocation of \$32,847.70 to the cadet units was approved at the District Council meeting.

Funds have now been dispersed to the cadet units through their sponsor Sub Branch.

Pictured below is the cheque presentation to the 132 Cadet Training Unit Capricornia



Emergency Welfare

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

For 2021 year to date, \$3,435.84 has been expended helping veterans.

President's Message for the Month

COVID has again raised its ugly head with lengthy lockdowns put in place in New South Wales and Victoria. Queensland has also had to respond to the threatening transmission of the infectious Delta strain with recent short/sharp lockdowns put into place in South-Eastern Queensland and Cairns.

In the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, we were told that COVID was a serious threat to the elderly, and this proved the case with many of our fellow citizens losing their lives. With the onset of the various mutations of the virus, it is evident that COVID is not selective and is a risk to all Australians regardless of our age.

It seems that if we listen to the health advice and follow the science, we need to get ourselves vaccinated for the protection of ourselves and our families.

I appreciate that this is a personal choice and I urge you to have a conversation with your doctor if you are unsure of what you should do.

I have had both my shots of the AstraZeneca vaccination.

For those Sub Branch delegates who will be attending the State AGM in December, I urge you to think seriously about getting your COVID vaccination as a protection against the virus.

While RSL Queensland will do everything in its power to run a safe AGM and meet all the COVID safety requirements, I believe that individual delegates also have a responsibility to get their jab as added protection.

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

LAST POST

Membership ID	First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth	Owner	Deceased Date	Membership Type
1541189	Tony	Wynne	21/01/1940	Mackay Sub Branch Inc.	24/08/2021	Service Member