

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021

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

1. I travelled to Brisbane to attend and chair an RSLQ Audit & Risk Committee meeting on Tuesday 5 October.
2. I participated in a special meeting of the RSLQ Investment Committee via TEAMS on Thursday 7 October.
3. On Friday 8 October, I travelled to Rockhampton to attend the funeral of World War 2 veteran and Yeppoon RSL member, Arthur Prowse.
4. On Monday 11/Tuesday 12 October, I attended and participated in a shoot of RSLQ branding advertisement at Emu Park Sub Branch.
5. I participated in a special RSLQ Board meeting on Wednesday 13 October via TEAMS.
6. I travelled to Mackay to work in District Office on Thursday 14/Friday 15 October.
7. While in Mackay, I attended an Afghanistan Veterans Dinner conducted by the Walkerston/Pleystowe Sub Branch at Walkerston.
8. I travelled to Blackwater on Monday 18 October to attend the funeral of a veteran and Blackwater/Bluff RSL Sub Branch member, John Gutheridge.
9. I travelled to Mackay on Wednesday 20 October to attend the Mackay North State High School Annual Awards Night and present the two Peter Jarrott Bursaries.
10. While in Mackay, I worked in the District Office on Thursday 21 October.
11. I travelled to Brisbane to attend a District Presidents' meeting on Wednesday 27 October and a RSLQ Board meeting on Thursday 28 October.
12. I travelled to Mackay to attend and chair a meeting of the District Executive on Friday 29 October.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics

October 2021

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Voluntary Hours | 181.5 |
| Kilometers Travelled | 3070 |
| Nights Away from Home | 7 |

Vales

Arthur Prowse

Sadly, Arthur passed away on 2 October aged 97 years. He served in the Army in New Guinea and Borneo during World War 2.

He was a member of the Yeppoon Sub Branch and he was farewelled by a number of members from the Sub Branch on Friday 8 October with President Bill Tahu, conducting an RSL Poppy Service

I attended the funeral in Rockhampton and his wake which was held at the Yeppoon Sub Branch

John Gutheridge

Sadly, John, affectionally known to his friends as Jungle, passed away on 4 October. He saw service in the Army Reserve with operational service while attached to 6 RAR at Butterworth in Malaysia.

Jungle was a member of the Blackwater/Bluff Sub Branch and a great supporter of that Sub Branch.

He was farewelled by members of the Sub Branch and a large number of Blackwater/Bluff community members on Monday 18 October with a church service in Blackwater and a grave side service at the Bluff cemetery. The Sub Branch President, Lester Anderson, delivered his eulogy and Sub Branch Secretary Steve Webb conducted an RSL Poppy Service.

Many who knew Jungle were not aware of how he got his nick name. Lester solved this mystery by advising at the wake that Jungle's father had told him that "when he applied for a job in the Railway when he was 16 years of age, he had a mass of black curly hair and the person interviewing him had said 'Your hair is like a Jungle' and the comment was heard by other railway workers who then started to call him Jungle/Jungles and it just stuck".

I had known Jungle from his time as a delegate to District council meetings and I was honoured to travel to Blackwater for his funeral.

Afghanistan Veterans Commemorative Dinner

I attended the dinner on the evening of Saturday 16 October together with RSL State President, Tony Ferris. We were honoured to attend this special dinner for Afghanistan veterans which was planned and organized by the Walkerston/Pleystowe Sub Branch.



The key note speaker was Brigadier Ed Smeaton who served as the Commander of the Australian Task Force Group - Afghanistan (2019/20).

Around 30 attended with 11 Afghanistan veterans being present and we all enjoyed a pleasant evening.



I thank Sub Branch member Rod Francisco, and Sub Branch Secretary, Dan Peters, for taking the initiative to plan and organize this worthy event and Tony Ferris for giving his time to travel to Walkerston for the dinner.



RSL Queensland Brand Revitalisation Strategy

The strategy is designed to address the issues that the RSL is all about pubs and clubs.

Over 5 days during October, RSL Queensland Marketing filmed a series of 30 second TV commercials which conveys what the RSL is really about and the final Sub Branch scenes were filmed at the Emu Park Sub Branch on Monday 10/Tuesday 11 October.

RSL Queensland Marketing and I would like to thank all the Emu Park veterans, Sub Branch members, and community members who turned up to be extras in the filming and were so patient on the day. A special thank you goes to the Sub Branch Secretary, Lyn Hill, who liaised with the marketing people and organized the many things that are needed for such an event to be successful.

The series of TV commercials launched on Sunday 31 October and the Emu Park Sub Branch held a gathering on the morning of Monday 1 November to coincide with the launch.



Mackay North State High School Annual Awards Night

I was invited to attend the Awards Night on the evening of Wednesday 20 October at which I had the honour of presenting two Peter Jarrott Bursaries to students:

Sophia Sticklan - Year 11

Karla Jackson - Year 10

As you may be aware, Mike Goodwin OAM, is a teacher at the School who has been coordinating the “Lest We Forget Program” at the school for over 20 years. In recognition of his commitment to the program, Mike was nominated by the District in 2020 and was awarded an “ANZAC of the Year Award” by RSL National.

The program encourages students to preserve the memory of those who served in the Australian Armed Forces and sacrificed their lives for their country. Over the time the program has been running, more than 850 service personnel have been honoured by the students taking part in 10 biennial Commemorative Tours that visited 180 cemeteries and battlefields in five countries.

As you can imagine, the overseas trips have been suspended in the last two years due to COVID -19.

The District funds the two annual Peter Jarrott bursaries which are awarded to students participating in the program. The bursaries are awarded in honour of long serving President of the District, Peter Jarrott.

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 used to effect the refund has now been advised to the Sub Branches.

PFH District Matters

Recent District Meetings

District Executive

The last meeting was held on Friday 29 October.

District Council

The last meeting was held at Gracemere on Saturday 18 September.

Meetings for Remainder of 2021

District Executive

None

District Council

Saturday 27 November at Emu Park

Proposed Meetings for 2022

District Council

26 March - Mackay Harrup Park (to be held in conjunction with AGM)
21 May - Gracemere
16 July - Walkerston
17 September - Yeppoon
19 November - Clermont

District Executive

5 February
5 March
30 April
25 June
27 August

29 October

Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026

A review of the District's 2019-2024 Strategic Plan was carried out by the District Executive on 16 July 2021 with Consultant, Geoff Wohlson facilitating the review.

At District Council meeting held at Gracemere on 18 September, the District Council accepted a recommendation from the District Executive that the reviewed 2021-2026 Strategic Plan be adopted. The Sub Branches have been provided with a copy of the approved plan.

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.

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.

State Board Meeting and Related Matters

A meeting was held on Thursday 28 October 2021.

RSL Queensland AGM

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

The AGM Notice of motion has now been issued.

Registrations are now open and Sub Branch delegates need to contact the District Secretary by Friday 5 November to organize their registration. Late nominations will not be accepted in any circumstances.

2025 Strategy

At Board meeting in August, the Board asked the CEO to reset the timelines for the implementation of the 2025 Strategy.

Resignation of CEO

As recently advised by the State President, Tony Ferris, the CEO, Melanie Wilson, has resigned and Rob Skoda has been appointed as Interim CEO by the Board.

As Rob steps into the interim CEO role, Troy Watson, who recently spent more than three years as CEO of Mates4Mates, has agreed to act in the role of General Manager, Veteran Affairs and Policy.

Membership & Networking

The General Manager Membership & Networking, Lisa McIlroy has resigned from the position and Kalie Ashenden has been appointed as the Interim General Manager.

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.

New State 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.

On Going Matters and Reminders

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 program is permanent and continues in 2021.

For 2021 year to date, 62 applications have been approved at a cost of \$25,974.50: Dental \$11,853.60, Hearing \$5,279.55, and Optical \$8,841.35.

LiveLife Alarms Program

The program is permanent and continues in 2021.

For 2021 year to date, 13 new alarms have been issued, 21 recharged and 1 replaced, at a cost of \$7,540.00.

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 General Welfare Support Officer Course was held at the Yeppoon RSL on Tuesday 5 October with around 20 members from the local Sub Branches attending.

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, 16 applications from the Sub Branches has been approved at a cost of \$43,676.53. When we add in the spending in relation to the District's Dental and Allied Health Subsidy Program and the Live Life Alarms Program, \$77,191.03 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 make 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.

Acquittals are now due back to the District Secretary.

Emergency Welfare

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

For 2021 year to date, \$8,072.18 has been expended helping veterans.

President's Message for the Month

At the coming State AGM on 8/9 December, Sub Branch delegates will be voting on two very important matters:

1. To adopt a new modern constitution that will embrace change and enable the Board of RSL Queensland to confront the strategic challenges of the 21st century.
2. Elect a State President for the next 3 years.

In my last two newsletters and at recent District Council meetings, I have emphasized and we have debated the issues relating to the three major changes in the constitution. A document titled "Brief to Members of RSL Sub Branches on Draft 2021 Constitution" was recently forwarded to the Sub Branches and outlines the issues in a very succinct way and this document is published at the end of this newsletter for your reference.

As well as the constitutional decision, delegates also have the very important responsibility of electing a new State President for the next 3 years at the AGM.

The nominations received for the position closed on Friday 8 October and were forwarded to Sub Branches and members in the week commencing Monday 11 October. Two nominations were received with current President, Tony Ferris, renominating and a nomination was received from RSL Member Stephen Day.

Again, it is essential that the Sub Branch members come together to consider the candidates for the position and decide how their Sub Branch delegate is to vote.

Sub Branches need to be cognizant that you need to elect a person:

1. Who will be the leader of RSL Queensland for the next 3 years and that person will need to have leadership skills and possess the interpersonal skills to meet with and communicate with politicians, government representatives and other stakeholders.
2. Who will be the Chair of the RSL Queensland Board and needs to be experienced in governance matters and capable of chairing and running a board meeting.
3. Who is aware of RSL issues, understands these issues, and communicates these issues to government and to other stakeholders, including the media.

Most of the information Sub Branches need to make this decision will be listed in the candidates nomination form and attachment. However, based on this information, you will also need to make judgements about the candidates in relation to:

1. Does the candidate have the ability and capacity to lead RSL Queensland and chair a Board of an organization that turns over \$200 million a year.
2. Does the candidate support the current RSL Queensland 2025 Strategy or not.
3. Does the candidate have the ability to represent RSL Queensland in the media, at commemorative services, and in talks with RSL stakeholders.

In this message, I have tried to communicate that I am not telling the Sub Branches how to vote, but highlighting that it is essential for the future of RSL Queensland that the best candidate is elected as our State President and that his or her leadership style and business skills are very important factors in whether RSL Queensland can continue on with the business of providing much needed services to veterans and their families.

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

| Member ID | First Name | Surname | Member Category | Deceased Date | Reported Date | Owner | Last Financial |
|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1733875 | Clive | Brodie | | 27/10/2021 | 3/11/2021 | Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc | SM2014 |
| 1025515 | George | Amos | | 25/10/2021 | 3/11/2021 | Mackay Sub Branch Inc. | SM2012 |
| 1032369 | John | Guteridge | Life Subscriber | 4/10/2021 | 11/10/2021 | Blackwater/Bluff Sub Br | SMLIFE |
| 1518338 | Arthur | Prowse | Life Subscriber | 1/10/2021 | 4/10/2021 | Yeppoon Sub Branch Inc | SMLIFE |