

RSL PFH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

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

1. I travelled to Brisbane to attend an RSLQ Audit & Risk Committee meeting on Monday 6 December.
2. While in Brisbane, I attended the State Congress Opening Ceremony and Meet & Greet function on the evening of Wednesday 8 December, State AGM/Congress and Gala Dinner on Thursday 9 December, and RSL Queensland Board meeting on Friday 10 December.
3. Together with the District Treasurer, Rob Clelland, I travelled to Mackay to attend meeting with the PFH District Auditor regarding preparations for the 2021 financial audit on Monday 13 December and work in the District Office.
4. On Wednesday 15 December, I attended a Volunteers Function held by the Emu Park RSL to recognize the work of their volunteers.
5. On Saturday 18 December, I ran the raffles at the Pine Beach Hotel in Emu Park on behalf of the Emu Park RSL.
6. On Tuesday 21 December, I attended and conducted an RSL Poppy Service at a memorial service for World War 2 veteran, Harold Morgan, at Emu Park.
7. On Saturday 8 January, I ran the raffles at the Pine Beach Hotel in Emu Park on behalf of the Emu Park RSL.
8. I travelled to Emerald on Friday 21 January to have dinner with Emerald RSL members and present an Australia Day Silver Medallion to Sub Branch President, Noel Mallyon.
9. On Sunday 23 January, I attended an Emu Park RSL Sub Branch general meeting.
10. On Australia Day 26 January, I attended Australia Day celebrations at the Emu Park RSL.

District President's Voluntary Hours and Kilometers Travelled Statistics

December 2021

Voluntary Hours	124.5
Kilometers Travelled	969
Nights Away from Home	6

January 2022

Volunteer Hours	90.5
Kilometers Travelled	1004
Nights Away from Home	1

Vale Harold Morgan

Harold was a World War 2 veteran and he passed away in early November 2021 at the ripe old age of 100 years. He served in the Army from 1941 to 1946 and saw operational service in New Guinea, Bougainville, and New Britain.

He had a large family and circle of friends and many were unable to attend the funeral due to COVID lockdowns at the time. A Memorial Service was held on Tuesday 22 December at Emu Park.

Our records show that Harold was in the RSL for 35 years and in recent times was a member of the Capricornia & Rockhampton Region Sub Branch.

I had the honor of attending Harold's Memorial Service and conducting an RSL Poppy Service.

2022 Australia Day Awards

The Australia Day Medallion Program provides an inspiring way to recognize the contribution of individuals and teams for outstanding performance on special projects or in the performance of their core duties within Australian organisations. The Australia Day Medallions are reserved for the highest level of recognition and provide a unique way of inspiring and recognizing staff and volunteers when presented in the lead up to Australia Day, on the 26th January each year.

RSL Queensland participates in the program each year and two silver medallions were allocated to each District for awarding to two special individuals in the District.

The criteria for awarding the medallions are left to each organization to determine. However, the PFH District Executive in awarding the two medallions for 2022 has considered the common themes of outstanding achievement, length of service, and contributions to the RSL.

The two Australia Day Silver Medallions have been awarded to:

Noel Mallyon

Noel joined the Emerald RSL Sub Branch in December 1979 and he must have made an immediate impression as he was elected Vice President in 1980 and served in that position until 1993.

In 1994, he was elected President and still serves in the position today.

During these 42 years in the Sub Branch, Noel, has assisted his wife Margaret with the multiple fundraising activities that fund the welfare services provided to the membership, overseen the commemorative and patriotic services each year, and has been the face of the RSL.

As the RSL President, he has worked tirelessly in the community and linked with other service organisations such as Little Athletics and Lions to provide services to the Emerald community.

Noel has shown extraordinary leadership as the Sub Branch President and I thank him for the contribution he has also made to the PFH District.

In 2018, RSL National saw fit to award Noel Life Membership of the RSL in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the RSL.

It was my honor and pleasure to travel to Emerald on Friday 21 January to present Noel with the award.



Sharon Heaslip

Sharon is a talented singer in the Mackay District. Over many years she has given her time to sing at the birthday parties of World War 2 veterans, entertain Returned Service men and women, and sing at commemorative events on ANZAC and Remembrance days around the Mackay region.

Legendary World War 2 veteran, Monty Edmonds, often asked Sharon to go to his home and entertain him and his veteran mates. It was Monty's expressed wish that she sing at his funeral and she did so.

Sharon is now fighting a debilitating illness and District Deputy President, John Edwards, was able to present Sharon with her Australia Day Silver Medallion and certificate at an afternoon tea held at a friend's place on Sunday afternoon of 30 January.



The award was a fitting tribute to Sharon who gave her time to entertain our veterans so as to make their twilight years that bit more enjoyable.

I sure you will join with me in congratulating Noel and Sharon on being awarded these prestigious Australia Day Silver Medallions.

PFH District Matters

Recent District Meetings

District Executive

The last meeting for 2021 was held on Saturday 29 October.

District Council

The last meeting for 2021 was held at Emu Park on Saturday 27 November.

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 |

At the District Council meeting in November, the District Secretary advised that the following positions:

District President

Vice President (1)

are to be filled at the AGM and nominations have now been called for these positions on the District Executive and close on 26 February 2022.

I announced at the last District Council meeting that I will not be renominating for the District President position.

District Executive

Meeting dates have been set as follows:

26 February

30 April

25 June

27 August

29 October

District Secretary Appointment

I am delighted to advise that Lynette Phillips has been seconded to the District as the District Secretary until 30 April 2023.

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 has taken considerable time and I have requested McKey's Solicitors to provide me with a briefing on where matter is at.

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 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 is to 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 taken place.

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

State Board Meeting and Related Matters

The last RSL Queensland Board meeting was held on Friday 10 December 2021 and the next Board meeting will be held on Thursday 24 February.

New RSL Queensland State President

Most members would now be aware that at the 2021 AGM held in December last year Major General Stephen Day DSM AO was elected as State President for a 3 year term.

Skilled Based Board

Given that the 2021 draft constitution failed to receive the approval of two-thirds of the AGM delegates votes at the 2021 AGM, the RSL Queensland Board will continue to operate under the 2015 constitution.

Member Value Proposition (MVP)

Given that the 2021 draft constitution failed to receive the approval of two-thirds of the AGM delegates votes at the 2021 AGM, the MVP proposal will not proceed.

PBI Tax Status

Given that the 2021 draft constitution failed to receive the approval of two-thirds of the AGM delegates votes at the 2021 AGM resulting in the rejection of amendment to the RSL objects, an application to the ACNC for PBI status will not proceed.

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

For 2021, 79 applications were approved at a cost of \$30,541.59: Dental \$13,912.80, Hearing \$5,327.25, and Optical \$11,301.54.

The program will continue in 2022 and be budgeted for accordingly.

LiveLife Alarms Program

For 2021, 15 new alarms were issued, 29 recharged and 1 replaced, at a cost of \$8,954.00.

The program will continue in 2022 and be budgeted for accordingly.

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 in this regard.

Donations to Mates4Mates

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

Given that Mates4Mates will now operate under RSL Queensland, it is not proposed to make any future donations.

Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (GMRF)

The District made a donation of \$5,000 to GMRF in 2021.

It is proposed that a further donation be made to GMRF in 2022 and will be budgeted for accordingly.

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

The fund will continue in 2022 with a further \$100,000 of funds being allocated by RSL Queensland to the District.

In 2021, 18 applications from the Sub Branches were approved at a cost of \$59,498.53. When we add in the spending in relation to the District's Dental and Allied Health Subsidy Program and the Live Life Alarms Program, \$98,994.612 of the fund has been spent in 2021.

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 2022 through this program for those Sub-Branches in financial need.

For 2021, 2 applications were approved at a cost of \$5,504.64.

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

2022 Cadet Funding

State Branch will provide further funding of \$27,000 for 2022.

Applications through the Sub Branches will close in early June in time for District Executive to review applications at their June meeting and make recommendations to the July District Council meeting.

In 2021, the District decided to provide a further \$5,847.70 on top of the \$27,000 provided by State Branch and allocated \$32,847.70 to the cadet units in the District.

Emergency Welfare

A budget allocation will be made in 2022 for emergency welfare spending.

In 2021, \$10,277.73 was spent helping veterans in the District.

President's Message for the Month

I hope everyone was able to take time out to relax during the Christmas/New Year period and spend valuable time with your families. Mandy and I were lucky that both our children were able to come home and spend time with us.

The 2022 year will be challenging for us all given that we are in the midst of a new wave of COVID-19 and at time of writing this newsletter, many people are still losing their lives to this insidious virus. The medical advice to us is to get ourselves double vaccinated and then get the booster shot as well.

I acknowledge that it is the right of individuals to decide on whether to get vaccinated or not, but I urge those who are not certain on what to do, then seek advice from your GP on the matter.

2022 will also be a challenge from an RSL point of view. Many of us will be confused about the direction of the RSL given that the proposed new modern constitution was rejected at the 2021 AGM in December last year.

Further, we also have a new State President, Major General, Stephen Day DSM AM and we will be looking for leadership and direction from Stephen in the coming months.

I undertake to keep you informed on these matters as soon as I am made aware.

One thing we do have certainty about at this time is that our deeply valued and respected District Secretary, Lynette Phillips, will be with us until 30 April 2023. I am sure many of us will be delighted with this outcome.

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

Member ID	First Name	Surname	Member Category	Deceased Date	Owner	Last Financial
2439522	Alan	McKinley		26/11/2021	Emu Park Sub Branch Inc.	SM2021
1017541	Alan	Olsson	Life Subscriber	24/11/2021	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region	SMLIFE
1518146	Harold	Morgan	Life Subscriber	7/11/2021	Capricornia & Rockhampton Region	SMLIFE