

CONFIDENTIAL

RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA



SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT LIMITED

COUNCIL MEETING 2 JUNE 2022

MINUTES

**Presentations by Tara Hatzismalis, Deputy Commissioner QLD (DVA)
and Major General Stephen Day DSC, AM, State President RSL Qld (Constitutional Change)**

46/22 CALL TO ORDER: 6.45PM

47/22 HOUSEKEEPING: Delegates and visitors attending were made aware of the standard housekeeping policy.

48/22 SILENCE TRIBUTE, VALE & ODE: The Vale for May was read by George Royes, Greenbank's Delegate and a minute's silence was observed.

49/22 WELCOME: Kerry Gallagher AM, District President extended a warm welcome to the Delegates, SED Board members, State President, RSL Qld; Deputy Commissioner QLD and visitors in attendance, including those Delegates on-line.

50/22 PRESENT:

a. Executive: Kerry Gallagher AM, District President; Judith Munday OAM, Treasurer; Judy Alterator, Company Secretary; Peter Murray, Vice President; Steve Monteath, Vice President and District Welfare Officer; Matthew Rowe, Vice President.

b. Councillors:

ASHGROVE/BARDON
BAYSIDE SOUTH
BEAUDESERT
BEERWAH & DISTRICT
BULIMBA DISTRICT
COORPAROO & DISTRICTS
DARRA & DISTRICT
DEFENCE SERVICE NURSES
DEFENCE SERVICEWOMEN'S
FOREST LAKE & DISTRICTS
GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY
GREENBANK
HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT
KILCOY
KOORALBYN VALLEY
LOGAN VILLAGE

Tim Coulter
Mike Rosser
Jon Forbe-Smith
Neville Layt
Brian Daley OAM
Dennis Collyer
Ted Fotek
Ann Martin (on-line)
Eve Radford (on-line)
Dan Baldwin
Peter Murray
George Royes
Michael Weibler
Shane Williams (on-line)
Reid Stevens (on-line)
Garry Alterator OAM

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'KB', located at the bottom right of the page.

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MACLEAY ISLAND
REDLANDS
SALISBURY
STEPHENS
SUNNYBANK
TOOWONG
TRAMWAYS
YERONGA DUTTON PARK

Len Waldorff (on-line)
Alan Harcourt
Tony Stevenson OAM
John Strachan OAM
Harry Claassen
Peter Gow
Grahame Fullerton
Michael Naughton

- 51/22 VISITORS: Stephen Day DSC AM, State President; Tara Hatzismalis, Deputy Commissioner QLD; Paul Prince, Ashgrove Bardon; Richard Smith, Bayside South; Liz Layt, Beerwah & District; Blue Reid, Kilcoy (online); Ian Gray, Redlands; Linda Harcourt, Redlands; Alex Garlin, Salisbury
- 52/22 APOLOGIES: Doug Egan, SED Senior Vice President; Dr Susan Kellett, City New-Farm; Troy Best, Greater Springfield; Bill Malkin, Jimboomba; Graeme Mickelberg, Kenilworth; Gary Sargent, Springwood Tri- Services; Hugh Polson, Sunnybank; Bradley Hartnett, Wynnum; Peter Kinsella, Manly-Lota; John Bergmans, National Servicemen's

MOTION

"That the Apologies be accepted."

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Salisbury

CARRIED

- 53/22 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:

Standing Conflict of Interest Declarations - Positions held by Board members:

Kerry Gallagher AM - AATTV Association and Chair of Anzac Day Committee
Judith Munday OAM - Deputy President of Defence Servicewomen's
Judy Alterator - President, Logan Village RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
Peter Murray - Delegate, Glasshouse RSL Sub Branch Inc.
Doug Egan - President, Greater Springfield RSL Sub Branch Inc.
Steve Monteath - Senior Vice President, Beaudesert

No change to the above.

- 54/22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 5 May 2022

MOTION

"That the minutes of the previous meeting's date be taken as read."

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Darra & District

CARRIED

- 55/22 AMENDMENTS: Nil

- 56/22 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

The Delegate from Forest Lake & Districts reiterated his point made at previous meetings that Sub Branches need time to receive documentation in order to discuss it with their Sub Branch before the next Council meeting.

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The District President said, "Again, as I said last time and, I'm possibly a little bit weary of it, that there is an issue and we are working on that and if it is not fixed next time then there will be some serious action taken. I accept what you say and can only apologise and recognise that this was far too late to get any sort of serious Sub Branch input to it. Are there any other questions or items from the minutes?" "No?" "Then I would like that aspect recorded verbatim so that we can act on it." The Company Secretary reported that it would be recorded verbatim.

57/22 ACTION ITEMS: 5 May 2022

- 49/21.1 - Questions were presented to DVA at the start of the meeting. The District President urged that If there were any unsatisfactory answers then please email them to the Company Secretary and they will be followed up.
- 124/21.5 - Steve Monteath had no further news on Vpad.
- 35/22 - If you have any questions for Graeme Alley, please pass them to the District Secretary and we will make sure that they are presented before 7th July.
- 34/22 – The District President received clearance prior to the meeting from DVA to circulate the DVA transcript about mateship that the District President spoke about at the second session of the AGM. This will be circulated to all Sub Branches.
- 100th anniversary certificate has been presented by the District President to Toowong and Life Membership awards have been presented to Stephens. District Secretary to finalise the date for District President to present a Life Membership certificate to an Ashgrove Bardon Member.

The District President was delighted to hear from the State President that the amalgamation of Ashgrove and Bardon would go ahead. He believes that amalgamations are the way ahead when we do not have the strength.

58/22 CORRESPONDENCE – Inwards and Outwards

The Company Secretary stated that most of the aspects in the Correspondence were covered in the District Secretary's regular updates. If Sub Branches are not receiving these, please let the District Secretary know.

MOTION

"That the Inwards be received, and the Outwards be adopted"

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Coorparoo

CARRIED

59/22 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE - Nil

60/22 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The only item that the District President wished to report on was the fact that the importance of the Minister of Veterans' Affairs to us has been diminished. There is a big difference between Cabinet and the Outer Ministry. There is a very big difference in that most of the decisions have been taken in the Cabinet before they reach the Outer Ministry and therefore it is too late when it reaches the Outer Ministry. The District President is sure that we can rely on our State President to voice our discontent.

MOTION

"That the District President's report be accepted as presented."

Moved: Kerry Gallagher AM

Seconded: Logan Village

CARRIED

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61/22 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer moved her financial report as presented.

MOTION

"That the financial statements be received and current accounts be passed for payment"

Moved: Judith Munday OAM

Seconded: Bulimba

CARRIED

SED SOLVENCY STATEMENT

"That in the Management Committee's opinion, the Returned and Services League of Australia South Eastern District Ltd is solvent and there are reasonable grounds to believe that it will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable".

MOTION

"That the Solvency Statement has been accepted."

Moved: Judith Munday OAM

Seconded: Stephens

CARRIED

62/22 BUSINESS ARISING FROM TREASURER'S REPORT

The Delegate from Greenbank enquired if there had been a major increase in insurance premiums as a result of the February flood. The Treasurer confirmed that SED's insurance premiums had increased by about \$15,000. The balance sheet shows a loss for the month of April due to unexpected expenses and Forest Lake & Districts will not be receiving their cadet fund money until Tuesday, 7th June. SED has been carrying Anzac Day for two years and of course after Anzac Day the bills start to arrive. RSL Qld have paid \$30,000 into SED's account as interim reimbursement for COF from 2021.

The Treasurer explained that with the District President's approval, she is diverting \$80 raised monthly from the Council meeting raffle (topped up to \$100) as a donation to the New Farm Community Centre. This is to help this organisation to put on lunch for the homeless which includes four veterans. The District President stated that this is another example of support to veterans in action. He also explained that there is a significant amount of money outstanding from Anzac Day over the last couple of years which has been his fault. The reason for it is that he has had a couple of meetings with the Office of the Premier who also just happens to carry the tag of the Minister of Veterans for Queensland. He has presented to them a substantial bid for an increase to the amount of money that comes into SED to run Anzac Day and is waiting for an answer. He believes that there are improvements to be made to ensure that Anzac Day is even more special for veterans.

Matthew Rowe, Vice President congratulated and thanked the Treasurer for all her hard work. The Treasurer will be overseas for two months from the end of June.

63/22 REPORTS

a. SED District Wellbeing Report

The District Welfare Officer updated on welfare issues over the last two months:

- 20 welfare packs have been distributed from Beaudesert to veterans, veteran families or civilians in need, containing hygiene and sanitary items around the value of \$35.
- Steve has worked out a plan of action with Boonah's State Welfare Officer for a veteran's bills to be paid.

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- He reminded the Council that the Charitable Objects Fund (COF) is available for anyone needing financial assistance; and this can be topped up when required.
- He recommended putting welfare packs together (including a compliment slip stating 'with compliments of the RSL') to distribute to those in need or in hospital. They are always well received.

The District President reported that he was aware that many Sub Branches do much the same as Beaudesert but perhaps not quite as often. He thanked Steve for his vitally important work and explained that SED has gone into a little bit of debt to provide him with a vehicle to drive around the District. The work that Matthew has done and continues to do at Greenslopes is also really important to show Veterans, especially when they are at risk and alone, that someone is thinking of them.

- b. Sub Branch Reports – Beerwah & District, Forest Lake & Districts, Kilcoy, Macleay Island & Toowong.
- c. Sub Branch Newsletters – Forest Lake & Districts, Redlands (Bugle) & Toowong
- d. Membership Demographics
The Senior Vice President was not present at the meeting and there was no written membership report. The District President reiterated that Membership is important. Please keep working on it at your Sub Branches. People join because people have asked them to join.

MOTION

"That the reports be accepted as presented."

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Logan Village

CARRIED

64/22 NOTICE OF MOTION - Kilcoy

The Delegate from Kilcoy explained that the paper that was circulated on the day of the meeting was additional information of Kilcoy's presentation, so that those attending on-line could have a copy. Blue Reidy, Advocate (Level 2) for Kilcoy introduced himself. He has recently left the army after serving for 40 years. He started training as an Advocate in 2016 and is currently responsible for 264 veterans at Kilcoy and Samford. He has contact with a wide range of veterans and wished to highlight what he is seeing with discrimination which is driven by legislation. Legislation is causing a disparity between the different Acts that veterans fall under. In his opinion, the older veterans do not receive the best of entitlements, especially under the Veteran Entitlement Act (VEA), and are disadvantaged. The older veteran do not have the ability to fall into DRCA and, unlike the younger veterans, will not fall into MRCA. His document summarised his points of concern. The introduction outlines the various entitlements under the Acts. He drew Council's attention to his concerns laid out in the latter part of the document, and also acknowledged two of his mentors: Mike Naughton and Garry Alterator.

The District President thanked Blue Reidy for his presentation. He believed that the quality of the rationale was fine but suggested more positive wording for the motion to: 'That RSL Qld assess and report on the disparity of entitlements to Veterans, spouses and children, between the three current acts for entitlements to Veterans'. Blue Reidy agreed.

After a discussion, it was felt that political action was required to change the current status of entitlements. It was agreed that a vote via circular motion should be circulated to all Sub Branches prior to the next meeting, with the hope that it could be actioned by RSL Qld, possibly

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with other issues, as one initiative. District Secretary to circulate a general query for any other Advocacy issues that need changing. The District President concluded that he hoped there would be more Advocates in the District soon.

65/22 HONOURS AND AWARDS:

The District President presented the 100th anniversary certificate to Stephens Sub Branch and Life Membership medals to Graham Enever and to Vince Stone's son on Saturday, 11th June. He also presented Toowong their 100th anniversary certificate on Monday, 20th June.

66/22 General Business

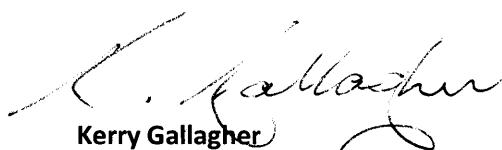
- It was felt that there had been good discussion on the skills-based board and no further discussion was required.
- The Treasurer had received some medals prior to the meeting by Bulimba's Delegate which had been given by a veteran to their local politician. A discussion followed and it was decided that SED should attempt to find the owner of the medals, find out their issues and discover whether he would like his medals returned. The question remains that If he doesn't want them back, what do we do with them? The District President stated that our purpose is to support veterans.
- The District Secretary reminded Council of the MMS training taking place on Wednesday, 8th June and the Governance training (now postponed to 4th & 5th July) and encouraged as many office bearers to attend as possible. An update on the State Congress was included in her update circulated that day.
- Matthew Rowe reported on the unveiling of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Memorial in Anzac Square on Friday, 27th May. He commends it to everyone as it is a wonderful piece of artwork and acknowledgement of a wrong that is being put right.

67/22 NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 7th July commencing at 6.00pm.

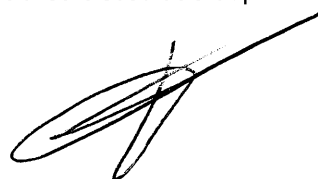
Ashgrove, Bayside South and City New Farm to give a short presentation so that all the good action amongst the Sub Branches can be spread to the district more broadly.

68/22 CLOSURE - The District President thanked all in attendance.

There was no further business, and the meeting was declared closed at 8.03pm.



Kerry Gallagher
President



Judy Alterator
Company Secretary