



RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT LIMITED

COUNCIL MEETING 3 OCTOBER 2024

MINUTES

- 143/2024 CALL TO ORDER: 6.35pm
- 144/2024 HOUSEKEEPING:
No change to housekeeping.
- 145/2024 SILENCE TRIBUTE, VALE & ODE:
The Vale was read by Greenbank's Delegate and the Ode was delivered by Kerry Gallagher AM. District President also remembered Ray Deed, long-term member of Sherwood-Indooroopilly at 97 years old who died a couple of weeks ago in Canossa Hospital whose funeral was held on Friday 27 September.
- 146/2024 WELCOME:
District President thanked Secretary of Yeronga Dutton Park Sub Branch for his presentation on 'High Needs' Veterans: A Sub Branch Perspective'; and thanked the President, Senior Vice President, Secretary and Membership Officer of Springwood Tri Services for their presentation on their Homelessness Veterans' Program. District President welcomed all Sub Branch Presidents, Delegates and visitors to the meeting which followed and particularly welcomed Grant Hartigan, Delegate, Darra & District who attended on-line in Ted Fotek's absence. It was noted that Peter Mapp has indicated his retirement and stepped down as President of the Sub Branch.
- 147/2024 PRESENT:
- a. Executive: Kerry Gallagher AM, District President; Judy Alterator, Company Secretary; Dean Malseed, Treasurer; Bob Ikin, Vice President & District Wellbeing Officer; Eve Radford, Vice President (on-line).
 - b. Councillors

ASHGROVE BARDON	Ken Cook (on-line)
BEAUDESERT	Barry Fisher
BEERWAH & DISTRICT	Neville Layt
BULIMBA DISTRICT	Andy Dennis
CITY-NEW FARM	Susan Kellett
DARRA & DISTRICT	Grant Hartigan (on-line)
DEFENCE SERVICE NURSES	Ann Bramwell
FOREST LAKE & DISTRICTS	Macka McAteer
GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY	Brian Machin
GREENBANK	George Royes
KILCOY	John Robinson OAM
KOORALBYN VALLEY	Reid Stevens (on-line)

CONFIDENTIAL

MANLY LOTA	Bob Ikin
REDLANDS	Ian Gray
SALISBURY	Tony Stevenson OAM
SPRINGWOOD TRI-SERVICES	Gary Sargent
SUNNYBANK	Hugh Polson
TOOWONG	Ross Williamson
TRAMWAYS	Grahame Fullerton
WYNNUM	Bradley Hartnett
YERONGA DUTTON PARK	Gavan White

148/2024 VISITORS: Liz Layt, Beerwah & District; Adrian Pate, City-New Farm, Stewart Rae, Greenbank; Alex Garlin OAM, Salisbury, Jamie McLellan, Ross Gowers & Aaron McCartney, Springwood Tri-Services; Harry Claassen, Sunnybank.

149/2024 APOLOGIES: Doug Egan, Senior Vice President & Delegate, Greater Springfield; Paul Prince, Ashgrove Bardon; George Bedford, Bayside South; Brian Daley OAM, Bulimba District; Chris Bumstead, Coorparoo & Districts; Ted Foteck, Darra & District; Dan Baldwin, Forest Lake & Districts; Michael Weibler & Greg Burke, Holland Park-Mt Gravatt; Bill Malkin AM, Jimboomba; Graeme Mickelberg, Kenilworth; Garry Alterator OAM, Logan Village; Len Waldorff & Ron Boldy, Macleay Island; Jack Goener, National Servicemen's; Peter Gow & Ross Williamson, Toowong.

MOTION

"That the Apologies be accepted"

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Salisbury

CARRIED

150/2024 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

Judy Alterator – President, Logan Village RSL Sub-Branch Inc

Doug Egan – President, Greater Springfield RSL Sub Branch Inc and Director, HORISUNS Coy Ltd

Bob Ikin – Delegate, Manly Lota RSL Sub Branch Inc

Eve Radford – Treasurer, Defence Servicewomen's RSL Sub Branch; President of Ex-Servicewomen's Association and Advocate, Geebung RSL Sub Branch

Brian Daley OAM – President, Bulimba District RSL Sub Branch

There were no amendments to the current list.

151/2024 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

MOTION

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

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Redlands

CARRIED

152/2024 AMENDMENTS:

There were no amendments to the previous minutes.

153/2024 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nil

154/2024

ACTION ITEMS:

043/2023/b/iii SADFO Visit: Date still to be organised for Brig Giles Cornelia, Commander 7th Brigade, current SADFO, when there is a gap in his commitments, to present at a future SED Council meeting.

065/2024 Stephen's Motion on Directors & Officers Insurance: RSL Qld are unable to offer umbrella coverage of Directors & Officers Insurance due to the wide variety of Sub Branches, but they are happy to recommend insurance companies for interested Sub Branches. If you have difficulties obtaining this information, please contact District Secretary for a SED list of sources.

067/2024/2 More investigation is required into the membership renewal period enquiry from City-New Farm. Information will be circulated as soon as possible.

067/2024/7 Provision of sewn RSL, Australian and Queensland flags: District President has contacted Tara Hatzismalis regarding a source for sewn RSL, Australian and Queensland flags. District President has spoken to Senator the Hon James McGrath who is a good supporter of veterans' issues but doesn't think a positive answer will be forthcoming due to cost. Further investigations are underway.

139/2024/2 Toowong's request for guidance on the new model constitution: District President reported that there were a number of Sub Branches who have submitted their draft constitution for approval, and he recommended that for those Sub Branches which are considering revising their constitution, that after Remembrance Day might be an ideal time, as there is a significantly positive attitude towards approval of constitutions at RSL state. Company Secretary added that Sub Branches should have all received a 'PBI Status' email from Julia which recommended that individual Sub Branch queries should be directed to LeagueServices@rslqld.org.

139/2024/3 Offsetting of ANZAC Day Costs: Due to such a variation in local government support responses for ANZAC Day, District President requested that Sub Branches email the details (contacts, costs levied, etc) of the difficulties that they are facing to Julia. The State President has agreed to accompany the District President when he visits the Premier (outside Caretaker mode) to request some financial relief on holding ANZAC Day events.

155/2024

CORRESPONDENCE: – Inwards and Outwards

Managed IT training sessions: Company Secretary encouraged attendance at these sessions on Wednesday 16 (10.00am-2.00pm) and Wednesday 23 October (10.00am-4.00pm) at SED. 17 attendees (over the age of 50) across the two days are required in order to acquit the grant. Training is also important going into the new Managed IT phase so that all laptops and mobile phones can be utilised.

President's & Life Members Luncheon (11.30am for 12.00 noon on Wednesday 27 November in the Officers Mess): Please email your Sub Branch response form for your table of 10 (Sub Branch President + partner + Life Members + partner + Sub Branch guests) before the cut off on Friday 8 November. Company Secretary will not be entertaining any changes/additions after that date as the cost per head is \$69.00 this year. The newly refurbished venue is very impressive and it is hoped that as many people as possible will attend.

MOTION

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

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Beerwah & District

CARRIED

156/2024

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE: Nil

157/2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. District President reported on a few items that came from the State Council of Districts President (SCDP) meeting that morning:
 - a. It is the one time of the year that we socialise internally, so he commended the President's and Life Members lunch on 27 November. RSVPs are required by Friday 8 November.
 - b. If Sub Branches haven't already submitted their Remembrance Day events on SKIP, they were requested to advise Julia of any services, etc that they plan to hold. It is important that they are added to the RSL activities across the state for perhaps the second most important day of the year in the RSL calendar.
 - c. On Saturday 28 September SED held the RSL Community Family Day at Western Districts Rugby Football Club at Toowong. A very significant amount of support came from Toowong Sub Branch and on behalf of SED, District President thanked them. He also thanked Julia and Annie for the huge commitment that they made and noted that there were a few obstacles, eg the wind, rain, AFL Grand Final and school holidays.
 - d. At the SCDP meeting today, there was a presentation on service delivery within the RSL and District President believes that the state deserves every amount of praise for their services provided to veterans which include:
 - i. Leads: 5430.
 - ii. Clients/veterans supported: 5,891.
 - iii. Financial support donated: \$1.27 million.
 - iv. Claims and appeals submitted: 4,098.
 - v. Veteran and family wellbeing client visits: 19,999.
 - vi. 254 jobs secured, which is quite significant.

That's the pure statistics of what the State has achieved. This evening's presentations reveal the activities of just two Sub Branches that are doing great things to help veterans who are in difficulty. We hope to receive the statistics of all the Sub Branches' activities in the District as, in terms of advocacy to government and to others, those figures would become even more significant, mind-numbing almost. It's important in our advocacy as we go forward.

There are three positive programs which show a significant move forward:

- a. **Veterans Homeless Programme:** There is now a new agreement operational from 5 September 2024 where \$900,000 a year will be available for two years for immediate and long-term homeless support. That relationship is with The Salvation Army to provide short term transitional accommodation (motel) and long-term suitable accommodation. That gives some clear direction and assistance to the programme at Springwood Tri Services.
- b. **Education and Skills Pilot Programme:** such as professional guidance on career pathways, including vocational assessment, is also very worthwhile.
- c. **Compensation On-Boarding Programme:** RSL state have negotiated with the Advocacy Training Development Program (ATDP) for a new streamlined program which enables people to reach a new and enhanced level 1. It will take those who are already at the previous

Level 1 onto the new advanced / combined Level 1 that gives them the introduction and shared skill of wellbeing and compensation. This doesn't allow trainees to submit any information but allows them to get into the process of gathering the material which would then speed up the process from where it is now. There will be some more detail coming out from RSL Qld and it appears that they are meeting the demands of the districts.

- d. **Tribunal:** There was a very detailed, but significant, briefing on the Tribunal, requested by the District President, which was presented by the Chairman of the Tribunal who has been part of the Tribunal for 13 years and in the chair for 12 months. There was general agreement that By Law 7 has got to have some serious and microscopic re-evaluation and, if the Board approves, the State Secretary will be responsible for its review. It was generally felt that currently the Tribunal has a very serious chance of being used for retaliation which was not what it was set up to do.

MOTION

"That the President's Report be adopted."

Moved: Kerry Gallagher AM

Seconded: Greenbank

CARRIED

158/2024

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. **August Financials:** Invoices were sent out for rent and wages; and general operating costs were paid.
2. **September Financials:** All the cadet units received their funding on Friday 13 September and the three executives of each Sub Branch were notified of those payments.
3. **2025 Cadet Funding:** Treasurer discussed next year's funding with League Support Services today. They have put forward our budget for all units that were included this year, plus one extra from Beaudesert, and will confirm early in 2025 once they have the final approval. Treasurer will then notify all the Delegates and Sub Branch Executives and will go through the same process again.
4. **President's & Life Members Luncheon:** on Wednesday 27 November, as District President mentioned earlier.
5. **Charitable Objects Fund (COF) and Grant Writing Information Day:** 8.30am-12.15pm on Friday 18 October at Manly Lota. League Support Services will be present to answer any COF questions. Morning Tea will be provided between the two sessions. Next year the COF process will be streamlined: applications will go to the Board, Sub Branches will be notified by the Board's decision. Once approved, SED will notify and pay the supplier (reducing paperwork) and do the acquittal which means receiving acquittals' reimbursements quicker from RSL Qld. This will allow Sub Branches to focus on the things that matter. District President added that it appears that both the total budget for COF and for cadets in Queensland is underspent, so please keep that in the back of your minds. SED could perhaps help RSL Qld reach their budget targets as it is designed to be spent. It also appears that there is some flexibility if the proposed amount from a cadet unit is slightly outside the budget. District President informed the SCDP that SED is more than happy to take care of any COF underspends.

MOTION

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

Moved: Dean Malseed

Seconded: Tramways

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: Dean Malseed

Seconded: Salisbury

CARRIED

159/2024

BUSINESS ARISING FROM TREASURER'S REPORT: Nil

160/2024

REPORTS:

Sub Branch Reports are up on the SED website as usual: Ashgrove Bardon, Bayside South, Glasshouse Country and Greenbank.

Sub Branch Newsletters: Redlands (particularly interesting).

Membership Report: Bob Ikin reported that he is setting up a Think Tank, on request of District President, to investigate and develop a model to assist Sub Branches to improve their membership numbers. The working group will be comprised of five members with two from traditional Sub Branches and two from the Modern Veteran Forum and Bob as the Chair. They plan to have their first meeting in October.

On a light-hearted note, District President added that a President of another District had received a letter from one of his Sub Branches asking if they could perhaps apply to become a Chapter as the President was 89 and the Secretary was 94!

Bob Ikin reported that the Membership Report has just been updated and now provides more data which he will review. He believes the information will assist going forward to understand a lot about SED's membership numbers.

Wellbeing Report: Bob Ikin reported on the following:

1. Wellbeing Workshop is to be conducted on Thursday 28 November at SED (morning tea and lunch will be provided). The target audience will be Wellbeing Advocates, Wellbeing Support Officers and interested Sub Branch Committee members from SED and surrounding districts; and Brisbane Legacy have expressed their interest in attending. It will be similar in format to the Advocacy Workshop held in May and the program includes experienced, high-quality speakers. A copy of the program is attached to Bob's report and he asked Delegates to encourage support from their Sub Branch Wellbeing members to register and attend this crucial workshop. There will be another Wellbeing Support Officer Information Day in 2025.
2. Due to staff turnovers, RSL Qld has had to withdraw their Compensation Advocates' presence at SED for the remainder of 2024 and it is hoped that the service will recontinue in 2025.
3. Bob thanked Hugh Polson, President and Kirsty Claassen, Secretary at Sunnybank for their support in hosting the Wellbeing Support Officer Information Day on 18 September for five members.

4. Bob visited Beerwah for their Zone meeting on 15 September and had an opportunity to visit the Veteran Wellbeing Foundation's (VWF) Command Post Café Hub. This has been established in the business district and is an impressive one-stop shop facility with a café, Advocate Officers' meeting rooms and surrounded by medical practitioners' consulting rooms. If in Beerwah, he highly recommends a visit to the café hub.

MOTION

"That the reports be accepted as presented."

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Kilcoy

CARRIED

161/2024

MOTION OF NOTICE:

Delegate, Wynnum Sub Branch spoke for his motion: Proposal for RSL Qld to investigate the feasibility and fund the development of a phone-based Application to capture the volunteer hours of RSL volunteers in Queensland. The costs would be minimal as it is not a difficult Application to develop. Sunnybank's Delegate reported that he had proposed a similar request two years ago and was told that it was a work in progress by RSL Qld. He strongly supports Wynnum's motion. President, City-New Farm also remembered going to RSL Qld with a similar request at least two years ago and reported that they were prepared to look into it for multiple Sub Branches across Qld, but had issues around their programming ability. Adrian believed it is possible using the Microsoft Office tools. Delegate, Defence Service Nurses reported that Judith Munday OAM had designed one a few years ago for Defence Servicewomen Sub Branch. As RSL Qld dismissed it, she used it herself and found it very effective. District Secretary to approach Judith for more information.

MOTION:

1. **That RSL SED recommends that the RSL Queensland investigate and commission the development of a phone-based Application (App) to capture volunteer hours.**
2. **That the developed App will be available free of charge for use by all RSL volunteers in Queensland**
3. **That the App be badged as RSL Queensland.**

Moved: Brad Hartnett

Seconded: Sunnybank

CARRIED

162/2024

HONOURS AND AWARDS: Nil

163/2024

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Delegate, Defence Service Nurses reported on the following:
 - a. **The nurses are celebrating 125 years of service to the Defence and also their 85+ years as a Sub Branch** (their Charter says 90). They started as a group of 6 reserve nurses in Sydney in 1899 who went to the Boer War and that was extended to other colonies at the time. The only two colonies that did not volunteer to send nurses was Qld and Tasmania, but Qld nurses went anyway. As they returned proving themselves to be very successful in 1902, the government decided they would have a regular Defence Nurses Force. The 1983 Act was promulgated and reserves were called up in 1914 for WWI. 1000 served overseas. RSL in Queensland was established in 1916 and when the nurses returned in 1919, they decided to apply for a Sub

Branch. It started up but dissolved quickly after a couple of years, possibly due to the Great Depression. They re-established themselves in 1933 and the Sub Branch are holding a commemorative celebration: a cocktail party at 5.30pm-8.30pm on Friday 18 October at Officers Mess. All Sub branches are invited. Dress: black tie, if possible, but a suit and tie would be fine.

- b. **Support:** SED was thanked for their tremendous amount of support and also Sub Branches including Sunnybank, Ashgrove Bardon and Kooralbyn Valley.
- c. **Fundraising:** In the past, they have been reliant on COF grants and memorabilia sales and they are currently raffling a copy of two books (worth about \$160): 'Call Sign Vampire' and 'Moreton Bay, Queensland in WWII'. Tickets are \$10 each.
- d. **Bangka Island Medallion:** As a result of attending their Bangka Island ceremony in February, Jan & Gea Beurskens from Sunnybank have designed and donated 100 numbered and stunningly beautiful medals for all nurses who have been killed on active service. Everything on the medal has meaning for nursing and for Defence. Each medal is currently worth \$70-\$85 and are being sold for \$100 each.
- e. **History Package:** A couple of Sub Branch members drove up during the bushfires to Blackall for the unveiling of a statue of a WWI nurse, Sister Greta. Whilst there, they were invited to a commemorative service for Anzac Day at a local Catholic school with 50 students where the parents and children had built this beautiful memorial wall in their gardens. It had three panels: one detailing the people who have served, one showing the animals that have served and another showing the machinery and equipment that has helped them. As they wanted more information, Ann applied for a grant to develop a package. This can be sent by email or posted with a USB stick in it and costs \$12. It includes: a PowerPoint presentation of the complete history of Defence Nursing since 1899 with a manual describing each slide; a copy of the Bangka Island commemoration service; the story behind Bangka Island with a guidelines' booklet; and information about the Sub Branch, their history and where they're heading. At the back of the package is a couple of A4 sheets, one is a dot point form detailing what they are as a Sub Branch, what they do and how to become a member; and other dot point history for schools. Ann is currently working on stories for children aged 8-12 in primary schools, particularly in the Bush on nurses, and women in defence. This package can include a little book that was published about 18 months ago that looks at defence nursing.
- f. **Welfare:** The Sub Branch is finding itself in a similar situation as 15 years ago, where they had a lot of ageing WWII nurses who were needing welfare. The Vietnam era are starting to need that welfare too so their focus is on fundraising through selling tickets for their cocktail party, raffle tickets, their package and grant applications. If other Sub Branches are interested in a talk on nursing by one of the Defence Service Nurses' members, please get in touch with them.

District President thanked Ann and commended all present to have a look at the medallion, which is truly a beautiful piece of work.

- 2. Delegate, Sunnybank pointed out two sheets of paper in front of Delegates. The first (A4) detailed memorabilia options in the lead up to Remembrance Day where they have emphasised the poppy (they will have different options for Anzac Day next year) and the real items were on display on the front table for viewing after the meeting. They are new and exclusive (cost \$3 and RRP \$7).

The second sheet (A3) detailed a pop-up banner set of 11 panels which tell their ANZAC story. A demonstration set (6+ foot high) was on display in the Boardroom and Delegates were invited to have a look at it after the meeting. Hugh will produce an order form for Sub Branches' expressions of interest so that he could go to the manufacturer and talk about economies of scale. They will also find out from their graphic designer whether it is possible to produce sets with an individual Sub Branch's logo on the bottom of it. Sunnybank's idea is that throughout April next year, they will place the set in four primary schools for a week each where it will be placed in the schools' library for the students to get a better understanding of the ANZAC story. It's a learning tool for everyone. District President particularly commended Delegates to have a look at the badges and pop-up banner set before leaving and thanked Sunnybank for creating some great items and particularly tasteful badges for Remembrance Day.

3. District Secretary reported on the following:
 - a. **St John's Ambulance** and RSL Qld are offering an opportunity for Sub Branches to host free first aid and CPR training for Sub Branch Board members and active volunteers such as Wellbeing and Compensation Advocates and those who do hospital visits. This is a good opportunity to learn essential life-saving skills that could make a difference in an emergency. There's a discount and free course offerings to be used before September 2025, which are only valid for face to face courses. If you would like to book a training course, please reach out to District Secretary for a required promotional code. Your Sub Branch Board members will need to find a first aid or CPR course on the website: https://www.stjohnqld.com.au/courses/?course_categories=first-aid-and-cpr and enter the Sub Branch details. Once they reach the payment screen they will need to enter the promotional code and ensure that the dollar value is 0. St John's Ambulance request that any booking cancellations are emailed through to them at least 10 days prior to the commencement of training. They are also looking for some training venues, so if your Sub Branch has a hall suitable for this purpose, they would be very grateful to hear from you. All details can be found in this week's Branch Bulletin.
 - b. RSL Qld Sub Branch Governance guides are now on SKIP: [Sub Branch Governance Guides \(sharepoint.com\)](#) and RSL Qld would be grateful to receive some feedback on them. They are also reworking the old 'Board Survival Kit' and its new name will be 'Governance Essential Kit'. They also plan to produce some aide memoir pocketbooks for the roles of President, Secretary and Treasurer.
 - c. If you are looking to advertise any executive vacancies, there is the Jobs Board on the RSL Queensland website for Veterans and Veteran/Defence Partners. Please email: leagueservices@rslqld.org.
4. Delegate, Tramways reported that they are closing their Sub Branch and working with Judy Alterator and their mentor, Eve Radford to wind it up. Scoop requested a 'wind-up' procedure to follow which Company Secretary will action.
5. Company Secretary reported on the following:
 - a. **Defence Servicewomen's Sub Branch is now a Chapter:** On 23 September Company Secretary chaired an extraordinary meeting at Sunnybank for the Defence Service Women's Sub Branch where they voted to become a chapter of Sunnybank. This is fabulous news and Sunnybank was thanked for taking on and looking after the Chapter. The Defence Servicewomen's

Chapter are excited to have the opportunity to network with other people and to have a future within the Sunnybank Sub Branch.

- b. **COF Christmas Function Requests:** Out of this year's \$100,000 allocation, the COF is currently standing at about \$16,000 to last until the end of December. Welfare is the main priority and Sub Branch Christmas function requests will be reviewed on a 'first come, first served' basis. Please continue to submit your applications which will be added to the current 4 already received. The intention is to meet as many of these requests from COF as possible.

- 164/2024 **SUB BRANCH PRESENTATIONS:**
District President deferred Logan Village, Macleay Island and Manly Lota's presentations to the next meeting.
- 165/2024 **NEXT MEETING:**
The next meeting will be on Thursday 7 November, commencing at 6.00pm with a presentation from John Hargrave, Head of League Development, RSL Queensland. District President stated that this presentation is appropriate and timely and commended it to all Delegates.
- 166/2024 **CLOSURE:**
District President thanked all those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7.41pm.

Kerry Gallagher AM
District President

Judy Alterator
Company Secretary