

RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT LIMITED

COUNCIL MEETING 3 JUNE 2021

MINUTES

Presentation by WO1 Sean Voss, Enoggera Transitions Centre

Presentation by Rebecca Ewen, RSL Auxiliaries

61/21 CALL TO ORDER: 6.40PM

62/21 HOUSEKEEPING: The Senior Vice President detailed to those present where the facilities and exits were situated at Events on Oxlade.

63/21 SILENCE TRIBUTE, VALE & ODE: The Vale for May was read by George Royes, Greenbank. The Ode was delivered by the Senior Vice President. One-minute silence was observed in respect of fallen and departed comrades.

64/21 WELCOME: Doug Egan, Senior Vice President / Acting District Present extended a welcome to the Councillors, SED Board Members and Visitors in attendance.

65/21 PRESENT:

a. Executive: Doug Egan, Senior Vice President; Judith Munday OAM, Treasurer; Judy Alterator, Company Secretary; Dr Robert Maher, Vice President; Peter Murray, Vice President; Stephen Dacey, Vice President; Steve Monteath, Vice President

b. Councillors:

ASHGROVE

Paul Prince

BARDON

Graham Jones

BAYSIDE SOUTH

Richard Smith

BEAUDESERT

Jon Forbe-Smith

BEERWAH & DISTRICT

Libby Brown

BULIMBA DISTRICT

Brian Daley OAM (on-line)

COORPAROO

Dennis Collyer

DARRA & DISTRICT

Ted Fotek

DEFENCE SERVICE NURSES

Ann Martin

FOREST LAKE & DISTRICTS

George Churchward

GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY

Peter Murray

GREATER SPRINGFIELD

Doug Egan

GREENBANK

George Royes

HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT

Michael Weibler

KILCOY
LOGAN VILLAGE
MANLY LOTA
NERANG
REDLANDS
SALISBURY
SUNNYBANK
TOOWONG
TRAMWAYS
WYNNUM
YERONGA DUTTON PARK

Shane Williams
Garry Alterator OAM (on-line)
Peter Kinsella
Darren Sapwell
Alan Harcourt
Tony Stevenson OAM
Hugh Polson
Ross Williamson
Grahame Fullerton
Allen Scott (on-line)
June Macdonald

66/21 VISITORS: Alan Greig, Forest Lake & Districts RSL Sub Branch; Alex Garlin, Salisbury RSL Sub Branch; Sharron Walters, Beerwah & District RSL Sub Branch; Ian Gray, Redlands RSL Sub Branch, Linda Harcourt, Redlands RSL Sub Branch; Harry Claassen, Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch; Herb Shapcott, Bayside South RSL Sub Branch; Hayley Bryan, RSL Queensland

67/21 APOLOGIES: Kerry Gallagher AM, District President; Peter Beauchamp OAM, District Advocate; Eve Radford, Defence Servicewomen's RSL Sub Branch; Len Waldorff, Macleay Island RSL Sub Branch; Eric Beutel OAM, Norman Park National Servicemen's Sub Branch

Moved: Salisbury
"That the Apologies be noted."

Seconded: Cooparoo

CARRIED

68/21 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 – RSL Qld State Tribunal
Judy Alterator – President Logan Village RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
Peter Murray – Delegate Glasshouse Sub Branch Inc.
Doug Egan – President Greater Springfield Sub Branch Inc.

69/21 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 6th May 2021

Two changes were noted:

1. 49/21 ACTION ITEMS, POINT 6 – **Alan Greig** (not Greg Amey), Replacement Delegate, Forest Lake & Districts has kindly offered his help with training/coaching on newspaper article writing.
2. 57/21 GENERAL BUSINESS POINT 2 – The Delegate from **Greenbank** (not Forest Lake & Districts) questioned why it was necessary to post member packs on to new members at the Sub Branch's cost.

Moved: Manly Lota

Seconded: Darra & District

"That the minutes of previous meetings date be taken as read."

CARRIED

70/21 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nil

71/21 ACTION ITEMS – Senior Vice President updated the delegates. As discussed.

72/21 CORRESPONDENCE – Inwards and Outwards

CORRESPONDENCE - In

1. The Sub Branch Gift Cards were mailed out to all Sub Branches this week. They are to be given to not only members but also veterans and their families. There is an explanation included with the Gift Cards explaining the procedure and it was noted that Beerwah had already received their envelope.
2. An update of the Managed IT Services Rollout was received on 26th May. We have given the Project Manager at RSL QLD a priority list to help plan for the next phase. If you would like further details, please contact the District Secretary.
3. With effect from 27th May, Memberships will be updating MMS member records (in Notes and Activities on the member's profile) when mail is sent to a member. This will ensure easier tracking of packs, ties, scarves, etc as it will record the item and address to which it was sent.

CORRESPONDENCE – Out

1. Email circulated to all Sub Branches on 10th May informing that veterans can access personal monitoring technology through DVA. These can be tailored to an individual's needs and are particularly suitable for those older veterans who are self-isolating to protect themselves from exposure to COVID-19.
2. Email circulated to all Sub Branches on 12th May with links to various newly-opened grants. If you need help with applying to any of them, please let the District Secretary know.
3. Email circulated to all Sub Branches on 12th May regarding a grant available for up to \$12,000 for improving energy efficiency, e.g. solar power. Any interested Sub Branches will need to contact their local Federal MP to be invited to apply. If you need help with applying, please contact the District Secretary who will put you in contact with the appropriate person at RSL QLD.

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Tramways

"That the Correspondence be accepted"

CARRIED

73/21 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

There was nothing arising from the correspondence.

74/21 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The District President will be able to deliver his report at the next District Council Meeting on 1st July.

75/21 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Delegate from Manly Lota queried the payments to Greenslopes. The Treasurer explained that there has been a progressive payment to Greenslopes for the management of the Centre.

\$22,000.00 has been received from the City Council to offset the expenses for ANZAC Day.

\$14,754.00 has been received from RSL QLD, through Victoria, for the poppies' sale. An email from Stonehouse, where we have our money invested, reports that 12 months ago the opening balance was \$511,029.54. The net income was \$10,755.00, leaving a net balance of \$563,490.00, which overall for the year is a 10.24% return.

We have had some demands on our money for welfare and the Woolworths' funds will help with that.

Solar has been installed on the Limbless Soldier building. Batteries to be discussed in the future.

Moved: Judith Munday OAM

"That the financial statements be received as reported"

Seconded: Darra & District

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".

Moved: Judith Munday OAM

"That the Solvency Statement has been accepted."

Seconded: Manly Lota

CARRIED

76/21 NOTICES OF MOTION: Bayside South

It was confirmed by Bayside South that the meeting at where these Motions were proposed have been minuted.

- a. Bayside South RSL Sub-Branch SED Delegate, Richard Smith, proposes the following **Motion**:
"We propose that RSL Queensland develop and circulate a comprehensive list of activities that are classified as Welfare. If not classified as Welfare, ask why not and advocate for

such items or activities i.e., Christmas functions may be excluded by ACNC but are very important for social inclusion and should thus be classified as welfare. A starting point is the document published by RSL NSW 'Definition of Welfare' dated 23rd March, 2018."

RATIONALE – What we can and cannot class as welfare is basic to our provision of benefits to members. Also, in coding expenditure to the different areas in accounts, more clarity is required.

Moved: Bayside South

Seconded: Manly Lota

Discussion

The Treasurer commented that all Sub Branches would have received the new guidelines for the Charities Objective Fund which includes 'reasonable costs associated with providing a Christmas function for volunteers and veterans'. The amended guidelines were circulated on 12th May. It was agreed that this Motion was covered under the COF.

RESCIND MOTION

- b. Bayside South RSL Sub-Branch Delegate, Richard Smith, proposes the following **Motion**:
"We propose that RSL Queensland be encouraged to expand and fund advocacy services to include any required help in dealing with the following:

- a. DVA
- b. Centrelink
- c. Aged Care
- d. NZ Veteran Affairs

This is not an exclusive list and could be expanded to other area's such as financial planning and tax returns etc. Going into Aged Care is a particular area that is stressful and needs financial advice at that time."

RATIONALE - This is a core function that is critical in providing benefits for all. As our Sub-Branch is now unable to provide this service, we will look to RSL Queensland to undertake this advocacy. Expanding the service offering will also help in attracting new members. Financial advice when going into Age Care would be the first area to consider as this can be a very stressful.

Moved: Bayside South

Seconded: Manly Lota

Discussion

The Delegate from Manly Lota noted that Centre Link advocates are hard to find. Once the Constitution goes through, there will be a lot more members who will want Centre Link advice and assistance. The Delegate from Beerwah stated that there was a training day at Sunnybank in 2010 relating to this Motion.

MOTION CARRIED

- c. Bayside South RSL Sub-Branch SED Delegate, Richard Smith, proposes the following **Motion**:
"We propose that RSL Queensland be encouraged to become an Internet Service Provider to offer membership discounted Internet and home phone services or do a deal for

members to receive direct discounted services. Also expand this to include discounted utility services such as power and gas.”

RATIONALE - These types of benefits would be income generating for RSL Queensland from sales commissions. If we wish to attract more members, this would be a great incentive. Note! If ‘One Big Switch’ can do this, why not the RSL.

Moved: Bayside South

Seconded: Holland Park Mount Gravatt

Discussion

The Delegate from Sunnybank questioned whether RSL QLD had been approached as to whether this would be viable. He stated that it is important to do the homework beforehand, find out their rationale and then go to a Motion to fight it if necessary. The Delegate from Manly Lota stated that discussion was important prior to this. It was agreed that the District Secretary should approach RSL QLD and that this option should be tabled for further discussion.

MOTION HELD IN ABEYANCE

- d. Bayside South RSL Sub-Branch SED Delegate, Richard Smith, proposes the following **Motion**: “We propose that RSL Queensland Lobby the Federal Government to allow Commonwealth and allied veterans access to Defence private Health Insurance and Defence Services Home Insurance.

RATIONALE – Family members with any connection to the ADF via serving or ex-serving member are able to join these organisations. DVA already looks after NZ veterans with any war like disability etc. There would be no cost to the government as these organisations are self-funding. Any additional members can only be positive to these organisations. In looking to increase RSL membership this would be a great benefit to promote.

It was agreed that the Motion should be reworded to: “We propose that RSL Queensland should approach **RSL National** to allow Commonwealth....”

The Defence Credit Union could also be added.

Moved: Bayside South

Seconded: Redlands

AMENDMENT OF THE MOTION CARRIED

Moved: Bayside South

Seconded: Darra

MOTION CARRIED

- e. Bayside South RSL Sub-Branch SED Delegate, Richard Smith, proposes the following **Motion**: “We propose that RSL Queensland communicates to all Sub Branches the means for funeral directors to gain access to Commonwealth and Allied veterans service records.

RATIONALE – Such requests for information are time critical. Procedures need to be at hand when required.

There was a general discussion. A Delegate reported going to a medal service at Greenbank RSL which was to present some South African veterans with their medals, including the South African equivalent of our DC. These veterans had waited 45 years for their medals.

The South African Government regards them as 'white terrorists' and they receive no benefits from South Africa. This was a moving service and these veterans deserve our support.

**Moved: Bayside South
RESCIND MOTION**

Seconded: NONE

77/21 NOTICE OF MOTION: Redlands' Discussion Points
To be tabled at the next Council Meeting on 1st July.

78/21 HONOURS AND AWARDS: Nil

79/21 REPORTS

- a. SED Welfare – Report tabled as read.
- b. SED Hub, Logan: Report tabled as read. The district council have given their approval for the demolition of the premises.
- c. Greenslopes Wellbeing Centre – Bob Maher reported that the Centre is now operational but more volunteers are required for a couple of hours a day, five days a week. As yet, not one Sub Branch as responded and if we don't have volunteers, the Centre will fall over. There are plans to have a large sign outside of the Centre so it is easier to find and it is hoped to locate the Centre to the main building at some point in the future. The Company Secretary to circulate an email requesting volunteers to come forward. Delegates to please encourage volunteers from their Sub Branches.
- d. District Advocate – Peter Beauchamp sent apologies for his absence.
- e. Sub Branch Reports – Bayside South, Beaudesert, Darra & District, Forest Lake & Districts, Greenbank, Kilcoy & Sunnybank
- f. Sub Branch Newsletter – Beaudesert, Forest Lake & Districts, Norman Park National Servicemen's & Redlands (copy of The Bugle) & Sunnybank
The Acting President stressed that reports and newsletters are being read and the work that Sub Branches are doing is being noticed. He thanked each Sub Branch for the effort put into reports and newsletters which allows the Board to identify what is happening in the District.
- g. Membership Demographics – The Senior Vice President is the chairman of the Membership Task Force. He has been in discussions with Hayley Bryan, Membership Experience Specialist and working with RSL QLD's marketing campaign. He is keen to find new memberships from current serving members by talking to Transitions on base; and presenting to training schools and academies. He is also keen to educate the younger generation from their current opinion of RSL as just having 'a beer and a parmi'. Delegates and volunteers are welcomed from Sub Branches to join the Task Force. If you are interested, please contact the Senior Vice President.

**Moved: Manly Lota
"That the Reports be accepted as presented"**

**Seconded: Bulimba
CARRIED**

80/21 GENERAL BUSINESS

1. The Delegate from Manly Lota reported on an article in the Redland City Bulletin about a free shingles vaccine finishing in October. The five-year program which started in November 2016, allowing those aged 71-79 to get a free vaccination, is drawing to an end. After October, unvaccinated people within this age group will have to pay around \$200 for a vaccine, while those aged 70 can continue to get a free Zostavax shingles vaccine from their GP. The District Secretary will circulate the details to all Sub Branches.
2. The Delegate from Sunnybank requested to resurrect the SED training days two or three times a year as there are so many things we can learn about. This was previously discussed at the Board Meeting and Bob Maher will approach Sunnybank to organise the first training day.
3. The Delegate from Sunnybank, informed Delegates that Sunnybank is owed thousands of dollars from Sub Branches for the purchase of memorabilia items in the lead up to ANZAC Day. Sunnybank will send out reminder emails with copy invoices to sub Branches but delegates are to please prompt their Treasurers for quick payment.
4. The Delegate from Sunnybank reported that, similar to last year, their Sub Branch will be holding a commemoration, '2021 A Year to Remember' on Saturday 4th September at Sunnybank School Oval. This event will commemorate all those conflicts that do not have a specific day in one big ceremony, such as the Korean War, Battle for Australia, Borneo and Malaya. The Sub Branch hopes it will be bigger and better this year after positive reports from the 2020 event. Confirmation of army support, band support, financial support from two levels of Government have just been received and they are about to test the new application for Charitable Objects Funding. They are expecting over 1000 to attend but would like to see more people from Sub Branches. Please save the date and more information will follow from Sunnybank Sub Branch.
5. Stephen Dacey, requested more information from the Sunnybank Delegate regarding training. A discussion followed about how do we know we are good volunteers. The Delegate from Beerwah asked if there was an ability to include the Office Bearer's Role and Responsibilities as part of the training. It was agreed that Delegates should put forward their ideas for training and that the key note ideas will be picked by the Board as a starting point.
6. The Delegate from the Defence Service Nurses thanked the Board for the support they gave to two military families from 7 CSSB.
7. The Company Secretary clarified the date of the RSL QLD AGM as 8th and 9th December. Tony Ferris announced the date at the SED AGM and stated that everyone would get the opportunity to vote for the new Constitution and the Member Value Proposition at that meeting. The postponement of the AGM will be discussed by the Board and will be addressed correctly.
8. Military books were kindly presented to the SED library by Herb Shapcott from Bayside South.
9. Stephen Dacey, Chair of SED's 100th Birthday Committee will start discussions with the Sunnybank Delegate and will update further. This will be the opening event

after the renovations are completed at Events on Oxlade during the second half of 2022. Stephen Dacey is open to adding representatives from Sub Branches to the Committee.

10. The Delegate from Darra & District questioned when there would be information circulated regarding The President's Lunch in July. The Company Secretary reported that information will be circulated later in the month.
11. There was a discussion regarding the signs outside of the SED office to encourage passers-by into the courtyard.

81/21 NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 1st July 2021 commencing at 6.00pm.

82/21 SUB BRANCH UPDATES – Stephens, Ashgrove and Greater Springfield to be deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.

83/21 CLOSURE – There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.



Doug Egan
Acting President



Judy Alterator
Company Board Secretary

