

RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT LIMITED

COUNCIL MEETING 4 NOVEMBER 2021

MINUTES

128/21 CALL TO ORDER: 6.01PM

129/21 HOUSEKEEPING: Delegates and visitors attending were made aware of the standard housekeeping policy.

130/21 SILENCE TRIBUTE, VALE & ODE: The Vale for October was read by George Royes, Greenbank. The Ode was delivered by the President. One-minute silence was observed in respect of fallen and departed comrades.

131/21 WELCOME: Kerry Gallagher AM, District President extended a welcome to the Delegates, SED Board members and visitors in attendance: Tony Ferris, State President, RSL Qld; Rob Skoda, Interim CEO, RSL Qld; Kalie Ashenden, General Manager Membership and Network, RSL Qld; and Chrissie Drewitt, Manager of Network Support, RSL Qld. He thanked them all very much for giving up their time.

Tony Ferris, as a nominee for RSL Qld State President, gave an overview of what has been achieved collectively over the past 3.5 years, his vision for RSL Qld in the future and wished everyone all the best for Remembrance Day.

Rob Skoda was invited to attend the SED Veterans' Health Week event and the District President gave him the opportunity to give an overview of the future of RSL Qld.

132/21 PRESENT:

a. Executive: Kerry Gallagher AM, District President; Judith Munday OAM, Treasurer; Judy Alterator, Company Secretary; Doug Egan, Senior Vice President; Peter Murray, Vice President; Steve Monteath, Vice President and District Welfare Officer; Mike Muirhead, Vice President; Peter Beauchamp OAM, District Advocate (on-line)

b. Councillors:

ASHGROVE – BARDON	Ken Cook
BEAUDESERT	Jon Forbe-Smith
BEERWAH & DISTRICT	Neville Layt
BULIMBA DISTRICT	Brian Daley OAM
CITY / NEW FARM	Dr Susan Kellett
COORPAROO & DISTRICTS	Dennis Collyer
DARRA & DISTRICT	Ted Fotek
DEFENCE SERVICE NURSES	Ann Martin
DEFENCE SERVICEWOMEN'S	Eve Radford
FOREST LAKE & DISTRICTS	George Churchward
GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY	Peter Murray
GREATER SPRINGFIELD	Troy Best

GREENBANK  
HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT  
KILCOY  
LOGAN VILLAGE  
MACLEAY ISLAND  
MANLY LOTA  
NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S  
REDLANDS  
SALISBURY  
SPRINGWOOD TRI-SERVICES  
SUNNYBANK  
TOOWONG  
TRAMWAYS  
YERONGA DUTTON PARK

George Royes  
Michael Weibler  
Shane Williams (on-line)  
Garry Alterator OAM (on-line)  
Len Waldorff (on-line)  
Peter Kinsella  
Eric Beutel OAM (on-line)  
Alan Harcourt  
Tony Stevenson OAM  
Gary Sargent  
Hugh Polson  
Ross Williamson  
Grahame Fullerton  
June Macdonald

- 133/21 VISITORS: Liz Layt, Beerwah & District RSL Sub Branch; Adrian Pate, City / New Farm RSL Sub Branch; Brian & Rachel Archer, City / New Farm RSL Sub Branch; Robyn Green, Defence Service Nurses RSL Sub Branch; Ian Gray, Redlands RSL Sub Branch; Linda Harcourt, Redlands RSL Sub Branch; Alex Garlin, Salisbury RSL Sub Branch; Harry Claassen, Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch; Tony Ferris, State President, RSL Qld; Rob Skoda, Interim CEO, RSL Qld; Kalie Ashenden, General Manager Network & Membership; Chrissie Drewitt, Manager Network Support
- 134/21 APOLOGIES: Richard Smith, Bayside South RSL Sub Branch; Herb Shapcott, Bayside South RSL Sub Branch; Darren Sapwell, Nerang RSL Sub Branch; Steve Cook, Nerang RSL Sub Branch

**Moved: Judy Alterator**  
**"That the Apologies be noted."**

**Seconded: Salisbury**

**CARRIED**

- 135/21 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 RSL Sub Branch Inc.  
Doug Egan – President, Greater Springfield RSL Sub Branch Inc.  
Mike Muirhead – Vice President & Membership Officer, Toowong RSL Sub Branch Inc.

- 136/21 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Moved: Judy Alterator**  
**"That the minutes of the previous meeting's date be taken as read."**

**Seconded: Defence Servicewomen's**  
**CARRIED**

- 137/21 AMENDMENTS: Nil

- 138/21 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:  
The Delegate from Manly Lota asked for an update on Stonehouse. The Treasurer stated that there was nothing more to report from the last meeting and we will receive details of the portfolio later in the month.

139/21 ACTION ITEMS

1. The District President has spoken to Leanne Cameron, First Assistant Secretary, Wellbeing Services. She has agreed that there is a delay in DVA response times, and she will give a presentation at a council meeting in early 2022.
2. Honorary Memberships will depend on the outcome of the AGM and it will be raised again once the outcomes are known.
3. The Senior Vice President gave an update from the District President's meeting last Wednesday where he raised the issue of the funeral notices in the Courier Mail. It was elevated to the State Board for Thursday's discussion where the Interim CEO will work with the marketing team to negotiate a deal with the Courier Mail to bring the price down. The State Board agrees that \$400 is an inappropriate cost for a funeral notice and the Senior Vice President will report back with a response from the marketing team.
4. In relation to a definitive statement on the RSL name for a club or sub branch, the District President has spoken to the State President. A statement will be prepared. For those RSLs who have received approval from the dim dark past, their status will continue. For those who have not received approval, there will be a separation. Sherwood-Indooroopilly Sub Branch is an example of that where they have completely separated from the service club and the service club no longer uses the RSL name.
5. The State President gave an update on helping Afghan refugees, stating that RSL Qld will support Afghan veterans. There are up to \$10,000 in start-up grants for people transitioning out of Defence to start up a business, which has been unheard of in this organisation before. For the Afghan veterans we are always going to be there and it is important to be there to support those individuals who will give evidence before the Royal Commission. Even those who have issues will still need support and those who don't have issues may even cause issues by being part of this Royal Commission. The Afghan refugees is a national issue and Queensland will support whatever National's decision is in relation to that.
6. The Board has yet to sign off on the training days for next year, but a draft programme is that these will occur every second month starting in February. The first one will be on Governance.
7. A draft letter has been drawn up to the Assistant Deputy Commissioner inviting a DVA representative to attend a council meeting at least twice a year, in addition to our AGM. The letter has been signed and sent.
8. The District President explained that the CEO resigned of her own choice or for personal reasons.
9. The SED dispute resolution flow chart for Sub Branches was made available for Delegates to collect at the meeting.
10. Steve Monteath to include the email from Dave Cusack in his report.

140/21 CORRESPONDENCE – Inwards and Outwards

**Moved: Judy Alterator**

**Seconded: Darra**

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

**CARRIED**

141/21 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE - Nil

142/21 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Further to the State President's final comment, the District President asked that each Sub Branch gives appropriate solemnity to Remembrance Day on Thursday, 11th November.

Steve Monteath was warmly welcomed back to the SED Board as Vice President. Michael Muirhead who has stood down from his role as Secretary at Toowong was also welcomed to the position of Vice President on the Board. With the Board's approval, the District President has approached Matthew Rowe and he has agreed to fill the final Vice President position. He was unable to attend the meeting but was welcomed on behalf of the Board. Each of these roles are interim positions and will be voted on at the next AGM. In the meantime, they were all thanked for their commitment to SED and thanked in advance for their support which is needed on the Board.

A question was raised about selling badges for Remembrance Day. A Sub Branch had approached their shopping centre only to hear that the Anzac Day Commemorative Committee was already selling their merchandise. Rob Skoda explained that Woolworths would be a tenant of the shopping centre and it was necessary to approach the centre management for permission as the agreement would be with the entity that manages the centre and not with the tenant. The centre management should broker any disagreements regarding selling merchandise when both parties have been given the appropriate authority.

The District President stated that SED appears to be at the point where it is about to sign the leases on the Limbless Soldiers' building, the Events on Oxlade complex and Merthyr Bowls. It is hoped to be finalised before the end of the year and the District President made the bold guarantee that there will be a drink for the Council because it will be some relief. The Delegate from Manly Lota asked for how many years the lease would be secured. It was confirmed that it would be for 10 years.

#### 143/21 TREASURER'S REPORT

**Moved: Judith Munday OAM**

**Seconded: Manly Lota**

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

Manly Lota questioned the reimbursements of \$92,410.97. The Treasurer confirmed that it was for the franking credits, the reimbursements for GST and a fair bit of money has come back on paper, but not in reality. The demolition of Logan was a big expense of \$51,000 and there is a lot of interest in the block.

#### 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**

**Seconded: Coorparoo**

**"That the Solvency Statement has been accepted."**  
**CARRIED**

#### 144/21 REPORTS

- a. SED District Wellbeing Report – tabled by Steve Monteath.

- b. Sub Branch Reports - Beaudesert (September & October), Beerwah, Forest Lake & Districts, Greenbank, Kilcoy, Macleay Island (September & October), Salisbury (July and August)
- c. Sub Branch Newsletters – Nerang
- d. Membership Demographics – The Senior Vice President asked if there were any questions from the comprehensive report circulated on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. If there are any queries regarding a particular Sub Branch, please email the Senior Vice President who would be happy to explain.
- e. Senior Vice President’s Talking Points
  - i. A Sub Branch had queried about DVA waiting times and the Chair of the State Board advised on a guarantee from DVA that Minister Gee had gone to market to engage an external company to research how the waiting times could be reduced. The Senior Vice President’s understanding was that they are looking for other agencies to assist in getting those waiting times down because obviously DVA is struggling under the weight of the backlog. More information to follow once the Senior Vice President has received an update.
  - ii. It has been recognised that there is a lack of quality and quantity in advocacy and the Senior Vice President will follow this up with State Branch as to what Veteran Services are able to provide.

**Moved: Judy Alterator**

**Seconded: Salisbury**

**“That the reports be accepted as presented.”**

**CARRIED**

145/21 HONOURS AND AWARDS: Nil

146/21 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1. The District President explained that there is a life membership application going through and that he is reliably informed that both the nominating Sub Branch and SED have reached the position where it is going to be resolved.

147/21 NOTICE OF MOTION

In order for SED to be represented at State Congress in accordance with the State Constitution, the following motion needs to be approved:

*Doug Egan is appointed as Delegate for RSL South Eastern District Limited and, in the event that Doug Egan is unable to attend, Judy Alterator will be appointed as Delegate.*

**Moved: Judy Alterator**

**Seconded: Toowong**

**CARRIED with Manly Lota abstaining**

The Delegate from Manly Lota suggested that the motion be split to recognise that there should be just one delegate. The Company Secretary explained that last year and this year there was a request for Sub Branches to hold Special General Meetings where it wasn't declared in the Annual General Meeting minutes that a Delegate had been appointed and, that in the event that

that Delegate was unable to attend, then another name was given for the Delegate. This was necessary in order for Delegates to be registered at State Congress. Only about three Sub Branches followed this ruling, so now there is a scramble to get it right and, because SED finds itself with a Delegate instead of a District President, SED has to follow the same ruling. The wording has been directed by State.

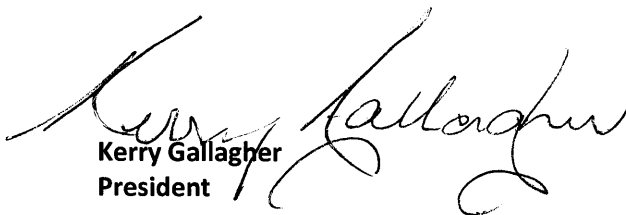
The District President put the issue to the Interim CEO who confirmed that the Company Secretary for State does know what she is doing. The wording has to be very clear and assigns another person in the case that the Delegate is unable to vote. The wording is very descriptive as there can only be one Delegate. There is only an issue if the primary Delegate is unable to attend. In 13b of the Constitution, the By Laws detail that the wording 'alternate delegate' should be avoided as they do not exist in the Constitution. We are trying to make sure that by going into this AGM everyone who attends is unquestionable in their authority to act on behalf of the entity in which they represent. If there is a problem with this motion then the Interim CEO will come back to us. If anyone feels uncomfortable it was suggested that they should be an abstinence.

Rob was invited to say a few words about his immediate targets and objectives within State and Delegates were encouraged to ask questions.

148/21 NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 commencing at 6.00pm.

149/21 SUB BRANCH UPDATES – to be held over until the next meeting.

150/21 CLOSURE – There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.16pm.

  
Kerry Gallagher  
President

  
Judy Alterator  
Company Secretary