



RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT LIMITED

COUNCIL MEETING 5 MAY 2022

MINUTES

24/22 CALL TO ORDER: 6.10PM

25/22 HOUSEKEEPING: Delegates and visitors attending were made aware of the standard housekeeping policy. Those Delegates attending on-line, were asked to mute their microphones to minimise the technical difficulties experienced at SED.

26/22 SILENCE TRIBUTE, VALE & ODE: The Vale for April was read by Peter Murray, Vice President and a minute's silence was observed.

27/22 WELCOME: Kerry Gallagher AM, District President extended a warm welcome to the Delegates, SED Board members and visitors in attendance, including those Delegates on-line.

28/22 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; Matthew Rowe, Vice President (on-line).

b. Councillors:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| BAYSIDE SOUTH | Richard Smith |
| BEAUDESERT | Jon Forbe-Smith |
| BEERWAH & DISTRICT | Neville Layt |
| BULIMBA DISTRICT | Brian Laing |
| COORPAROO & DISTRICTS | Dennis Collyer |
| DARRA & DISTRICT | Ted Fotek |
| DEFENCE SERVICEWOMEN'S | Eve Radford (on-line) |
| FOREST LAKE & DISTRICTS | Dan Baldwin |
| GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY | Peter Murray |
| GREATER SPRINGFIELD | Troy Best (on-line) |
| GREENBANK | George Royes (on-line) |
| KILCOY | Shane Williams (on-line) |
| LOGAN VILLAGE | Garry Alterator OAM (on-line) |
| MACLEAY ISLAND | Len Waldorff (on-line) |
| MANLY LOTA | Peter Kinsella |
| REDLANDS | Alan Harcourt |
| SALISBURY | Tony Stevenson OAM |
| SPRINGWOOD TRI-SERVICES | Gary Sargent |

STEPHENS
SUNNYBANK
TRAMWAYS
WYNNUM

John Strachan OAM
Hugh Polson
Grahame Fullerton
Bradley Hartnett

29/22 VISITORS: Mick Rosser, Bayside South RSL Sub Branch; Liz Layt, Beerwah & District RSL Sub Branch; Ian Gray, Redlands RSL Sub Branch; Linda Harcourt, Redlands RSL Sub Branch; Judy Strachan, Stephens RSL Sub Branch; Harry Claassen, Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch

30/22 APOLOGIES: Brian Daley OAM, Bulimba District RSL Sub Branch; Michael Weibler, Holland Park Mt Gravatt RSL Sub Branch; Neil Spackman, Holland Park Mt Gravatt RSL Sub Branch; Graeme Mickelberg, Kenilworth RSL Sub Branch; Alex Garlin, Salisbury RSL Sub Branch; Ross Williamson, Toowong RSL Sub Branch

MOTION

“That the Apologies be accepted.”

Moved: Salisbury

Seconded: Coorparoo

CARRIED

31/22 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

It was noted that Judith Munday OAM is no longer a representative on the State Tribunal and is now Deputy President of Defence Servicewomen’s.

MOTION

“That the Conflict of Interest Declarations be accepted.”

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Tramways

CARRIED

32/22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 7th April 2022

MOTION

“That the minutes of the previous meeting’s date be taken as read.”

Moved: Darra & District

Seconded: Manly Lota

CARRIED

33/22 AMENDMENTS: Nil

34/22 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Judith Munday reported that the Defence Servicewomen’s Sub Branch President was interested in receiving the DVA report discussed at the last meeting. The District President confirmed that he would email the DVA again for a response.

35/22 ACTION ITEMS

- 49/21.1 **DVA Visit** - Questions for DVA to be emailed to District Secretary by Friday 20th May 2022.
- 102/21.6 The instructions on how to place a funeral notice in the Courier Mail, and receive a subsidy for the use of the RSL logo, was mentioned in the District Secretary's update, dated Thursday, 7th May and also in issue 9 of the Branch Bulletin, dated 5th May.
- 124/21.5 Steve Monteath asked if he could include his update on Vpad and the requirement for advocates to record all interactions with veterans, in his Welfare Report. This request was granted (see Reports' section).
- 142/21.e.ii Graeme Alley, Head of Veteran Services will present on Veteran Services at the Council Meeting on Thursday, 7th July. The District Secretary will request your questions in her next update.
- 18/22 The District Secretary circulated Bayside South's PowerPoint presentation to all Sub Branches on Friday, 8th April.

36/22 CORRESPONDENCE – Inwards and Outwards

The Company Secretary asked that Sub Branches email the District Secretary if they required any further information mentioned in either the inwards or outwards correspondence.

MOTION

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

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Glasshouse Country

CARRIED

37/22 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE - Nil

38/22 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The principle ANZAC Day ceremonies went ahead and were considered to be very successful. A number of our Sub Branches had reported record attendances at their local services and marches which were very well attended and successful. The District President thanked the ADPB Executive, Scott Mackie and his team of volunteers for the success of the main Brisbane march.

Despite even more departures of senior staff from RSL Queensland, support from RSL Qld appears to be more focused and significantly greater than in the past; particularly in areas of direct support and personal commitment to districts and sub branches. This is encouraging.

Our District Senior Vice President is standing for the position of State Vice President. Although the decision on the vote is a Sub Branch responsibility, the District President hoped that Sub Branches would consider Doug's nomination deeply.

From the Vale list, sadly too many Members have passed this month. The District President especially wished to recognise the passing of Tony Stokes, previous District President and long serving member of RSL Coorparoo and Districts Sub Branch.

The District President has spent a significant amount of time during the past month in representation, including National Mourning Day for Republic of Vietnam and ANZAC Day activities. A significant amount of time has also been spent working with a small number of Sub Branches which have been experiencing difficulties.

MOTION

“That the District President’s report be accepted as presented.”

Moved: Kerry Gallagher AM

Seconded: Manly Lota

CARRIED

39/22 TREASURER’S REPORT

- a. The Treasurer moved her financial report as presented.
- b. Cadet Payment – Forest Lake & Districts’ Delegate questioned why the Cadet Funding had not yet been distributed when it is showing in the Profit and Loss Report. The Treasurer explained that lost cheques from last year and their reissue together with ANZAC Day expenses have seen a delay in the distribution.
- c. Insurance – Manly Lota Delegate queried how the budget was being affected by the increase of approximately 6-10% on premiums. The Treasurer will be revisiting the budget for 2022 as many things have impacted it, including support to Sub Branches requiring assistance.
- d. Water – Manly Lota’s Delegate asked about the increase in the cost of water usage and the Treasurer explained that monies are recovered from Events on Oxlade and Merthyr Bowls Club.
- e. SED AGM Auditors Report - Page 22 showed some minor deficiencies including the non-increase of staff Super which have been rectified.

MOTION

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

Moved: Judith Munday OAM

Seconded: Manly Lota

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: Manly Lota

CARRIED

40/22 REPORTS

- a. SED District Wellbeing Report
The District Welfare Officer updated on the following:
 - Reference to Action Item regarding client records management, due to privacy requirements this information is only available to be released at the discretion of the client, advocate and any other as described by law. Steve Monteath has submitted suggested courses of action regarding client record management to RSL Qld and is awaiting a response. Clients’ files cannot be submitted as evidence to support course participants’ recognition towards qualifications for privacy reasons.
 - Advocates – personnel reporting as advocates but are not qualified under ATDP - to ensure you are receiving current and correct information, request to see Statement of Attainment and Letter of Authorisation before providing personal information. Similar to a qualified advocates, advocates under training are held accountable, and all information disclosed in

- interviews remains in the office. TIP trained personnel are no longer qualified to conduct interviews.
- If you require further information, please contact Steve Monteath via email: VP3@rslsouthqueensland.org and he will be more than happy to answer your questions.
- b. Sub Branch Reports – Bayside South, Beerwah & District, Darra & Districts (+ President's Report on ANZAC Day), Defence Servicewomen's, Forest Lake & Districts and Kilcoy. The District President passed particular thanks to Darra for a comprehensive, well-written report and requested that 'Centenary Celebration' be added to Sub Branch reports in the run-up to August in order to have an overview.
 - c. Sub Branch Newsletters – Darra & District and Forest Lake & Districts.
 - d. Membership Demographics
The Senior Vice President delivered his report based on recent district figures. The main points were:
 - Total Members: 4,800.
 - New Members in 2022: 47.
 - Deceased Members in 2022: 69.
 - The gap between new and deceased Members is closing.
 - The younger generation is required to take on responsibility and major roles at RSL Qld. The Senior Vice President is setting an example.
 - Non renewals across the district: 120.
 - Sub Branches to inform the Senior Vice President if they require assistance.
 - MMS training is highly recommended, and Memberships are very helpful.

MOTION

"That the reports be accepted as presented."

Moved: Doug Egan

Seconded: Tramways

CARRIED

41/22 MOTION OF NOTICES – raised by Bayside South at the last Council meeting, discussed at Sub Branches and brought to the meeting for a comprehensive discussion.

- a. **Motion: that RSL QLD establish an appointment to specifically address Allied Service Membership and Concerns.**
 - i. Significant numbers of Allied Service Members are embedded in our Sub Branches but there is little corporate effort to grow these numbers.
 - ii. The advantages of Allied Service Members belonging to Sub Branches needs to be made more relevant.
 - iii. Provide a contact point for all Sub Branch Welfare Officers requesting Service Records for a poppy eulogy service.

Rationale

Such an allocation of a dedicated staffing position by RSL Queensland would be an acknowledgement that Allied Service Members are accorded the same status in their treatment as ADF Members. This would clearly demonstrate to any potential Allied Service Member the benefits of belonging to a RSL Sub Branch.

A lengthy discussion took place. The Senior Vice President to find out whether it is possible to determine the statistics of ADF versus Allied Service Members.

MOTION

“That RSL Qld establish an appointment to specifically address Allied Service Membership and Concerns.”

Moved: Bayside South

Seconded: Manly Lota

CARRIED

b. Motion: “that the electronic voting data, in relation to the electronic voting at the RSL Queensland AGM, is not deleted within 10 minutes of the vote being taken but is retained for the purposes of “data mining”.

- i. This would enable all data to be harvested to enable any trends to be identified.**
- ii. Delegates would be held to account to reflect Sub Branch intention and not any individual’s personal preference.**
- iii. The veil of secrecy is removed to avoid any opportunity for manipulation.**

Rationale

The current ‘one Sub Branch, one vote’ does not necessarily address the intent of RSL Qld membership. A motion can be passed, or rejected on the basis of the lowest common denominator, i.e. the Sub Branch. Is it morally defensible that a Sub Branch with 200 members has the same voting power as one with 20 members?

After a lengthy discussion, the District President noted the intelligent and informed comments from Sub Branches. He reminded the Council that it is a Sub Branch authority and independence issue and Sub Branches should be making their voting decision quite clear, through their Memberships and Executives, to their Delegate. The Senior Vice President stated that threatening behaviour after voting was not acceptable and is one of the factors preventing the younger generation from wishing to join the League.

MOTION

“That the electronic voting data, in relation to the electronic voting at the RSL Queensland AGM, is not deleted within 10 minutes of the vote being taken but is retained for the purposes of ‘data mining’.”

Moved: Bayside South

Seconded: Manly Lota

NOT CARRIED

42/22 HONOURS AND AWARDS:

The District Secretary to confirm dates with Sub Branches for the District President to present their 100th anniversary certificates.

The Sunnybank Delegate questioned whether Life Members’ and Meritorious Service Medal awards could be presented at the State AGM Gala Dinner, preferably by the National President, with spouses / partners present. This was turned into a motion and there was no discussion.

MOTION

“That Life Members’ and Meritorious Service Medal Awards should be presented to recipients at the State AGM Gala Dinner, preferably by the National President, with spouses/partners present.”

Moved: Sunnybank

Seconded: Tramways

CARRIED

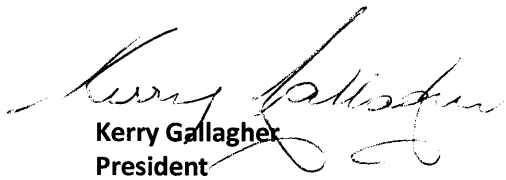
43/22 General Business

- The Company Secretary reported that on some occasions when information is missing from COF applications and returned to the Sub Branch, the amended copies are received too late for the Board to peruse them and make a decision before the Board meeting. The Board packs are now circulated a week before the meeting to accommodate any COF queries.
- The Company Secretary updated the Council in the absence of the District Secretary:
 - State Congress: in order for Sub Branches to be included in the RSL Qld AGM documentation, the deadline for registering and apologies is Friday, 20th May (and not 27th May as stated on the website). Registrations via the SED Office will start week commencing: Monday, 9th May once receipt of the Delegate verification form and corresponding minutes have been confirmed by AGM registration to the District Secretary.
 - Governance training is highly recommended and the presenter, Geoff is very informative. The next 1.5 day session is a full day on Wednesday, 29th June and half a day on Thursday, 30th June. The training, accommodation and catering costs are covered by RSL Qld. Please book your place with the District Secretary.
 - MMS Training is planned on a regular basis with the first session taking place in the SED Training Room on Friday, 8th June. Please book your place with the District Secretary.
 - Requested hospital packs were dispersed prior to the meeting.
- The Delegate from Forest Lake & Districts noted the lateness of documentation being circulated from District Office which prevents reading and discussion time at Sub Branches. The District President accepted this valid and appropriate criticism, apologised for the delay and the matter will be rectified before the next meeting.
- The Delegate from Forest Lake & Districts also noted that the position of State Vice President could have been better advertised and in a timely way to prevent it being missed in the midst of organising ANZAC Day events. The District Secretary to circulate the RSL Qld nominees' information link. The Senior Vice President is happy to visit Sub Branches to discuss his nomination further, if required.
- The Delegate from Manly Lota reported on his research regarding the reconvening of meetings:
 - SED Constitution, page 13, section 17.4
 - RSL Qld Constitution, page 14, section 6.1
 - Corporations Act, second session of the AGM has to be within 60 days of the first session

The Delegate from Stephens clarified that the District President originally set the date of SED's AGM, but State got involved as they insisted on a representative attending from RSL Qld.

- The Delegate from Tramways reported on their successful ANZAC Day fun function which was held at their Vice President's house and the Vice President's 10-year-old grandson played the 'Last Post'. The District President thanked Tramways' Delegate for this update and expressed his sympathy for the Delegate's house fire in February.
- VE Day is being commemorated at SED at 10.00am on Saturday, 14th May. All Sub Branches are encouraged to attend.

- 44/22 NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 2nd June commencing at 6.00pm.
Ashgrove, Bayside South and City New Farm to give a short presentation so all the good action amongst the Sub Branches can be spread to the district more broadly.
- 45/22 CLOSURE - The District President thanked all in attendance.
There was no further business, and the meeting was declared closed at 7.41pm.



Kerry Gallagher
President



Judy Alterator
Company Secretary