

RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT LIMITED

COUNCIL MEETING 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

MINUTES

Presentation by Bradley Skinner, Veteran Services, RSL Qld

83/21 CALL TO ORDER: 6.05PM

84/21 HOUSEKEEPING: Delegates and visitors attending are aware of the standard housekeeping policy.

85/21 SILENCE TRIBUTE, VALE & ODE: The Vale for June, July and August 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.

86/21 WELCOME: Kerry Gallagher AM, District President extended a welcome to the Delegates, SED Board Members and Visitors in attendance and thanked Bradley for his presentation and Sub Branches for all their work. Ray Tiernan, Manager Network Support, RSL Qld explained how he helps the District Secretary to navigate through State and put her in touch with the relevant team in order to answer Sub Branches' questions and solve any problems.

87/21 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; Peter Beauchamp OAM, District Advocate (on-line)

b. Councillors:

BARDON	Graham Jones
BAYSIDE SOUTH	Herb Shapcott
BEAUDESERT	Jon Forbe-Smith
BEERWAH & DISTRICT	Neville Layt
BULIMBA DISTRICT	Brian Daley OAM
CITY / NEW FARM	Dr Susan Kellett
COORPAROO	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	Doug Egan
GREENBANK	George Royes
HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT	Michael Weibler
JIMBOMBA	Bill Malkin (on-line)
KILCOY	Shane Williams



KOORALBYN VALLEY
LOGAN VILLAGE
MACLEAY ISLAND
MANLY LOTA
NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S
NERANG
REDLANDS
SALISBURY
SPRINGWOOD TRI-SERVICES
STEPHENS
SUNNYBANK
TOOWONG
TRAMWAYS
YERONGA DUTTON PARK

Reid Stevens (on-line)
Garry Alterator OAM
Len Waldorff (on-line)
Peter Kinsella
Eric Beutel OAM (on-line)
Darren Sapwell (on-line)
Alan Harcourt
Tony Stevenson OAM
Gary Sargent
Wayne Lucas
Hugh Polson
Mike Muirhead
Grahame Fullerton
June Macdonald

88/21 VISITORS: Liz Layt, Beerwah & District RSL Sub Branch; Brian Laing, Bulimba RSL Sub Branch; Robyn Green, Defence Service Nurses RSL Sub Branch; Alan Greig, Forest Lake & Districts RSL Sub Branch; Stephen Cook, Nerang RSL Sub Branch; Ian Gray, Redlands RSL Sub Branch; Linda Harcourt, Redlands RSL Sub Branch; Alex Garlin, Salisbury RSL Sub Branch; Brad Hartnett, Wynnum RSL Sub Branch; Russell Wiseman, Wynnum RSL Sub Branch; Hayley Bryan, RSL Queensland; Ray Tiernan, RSL Queensland; Bradley Skinner, RSL Queensland

89/21 APOLOGIES: Kenneth Cook, Ashgrove; Chris Christmas, Russell Island; Ross Williamson, Toowong Sub Branch

Moved: Salisbury
"That the Apologies be noted."

Seconded: Forest Lake & Districts
CARRIED

90/21 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.

91/21 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 3rd June 2021

Moved: Judy Alterator
"That the minutes of previous meetings date be taken as read."

Seconded: Darra & District
CARRIED

92/21 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES: Nil

93/21 ACTION ITEMS

1. The District President updated the Delegates. The motion regarding the DVA response time has been raised with the Board of RSL Qld and they have sought to get RSL Australia to raise this at national level. We will continue to wait for the response.
2. There hasn't been a significant movement on Honorary Memberships, but the District President will continue to push the issue.

Moved: Judy Alterator
“That the Correspondence be adopted”

Seconded: Manly Lota
CARRIED

94/21 CORRESPONDENCE – Inwards and Outwards

CORRESPONDENCE - In

1. If you haven't received the updated MVP frequently asked questions (FAQs) circulated in August, please ask the District Secretary to re-send them.
2. Please note the Royal Australian Navy Communications Branch Association's (RANCBA Q) 75th Anniversary Luncheon is on Sunday, 17th October.
3. The DVA Health and Wellbeing Update was circulated on 23rd August. It's important, especially with the current situation in Afghanistan, to stay in contact with members of your Sub Branch whether through Facetime or telephone calls, to make sure everyone keeps in touch.

CORRESPONDENCE – Out

1. The President's Luncheon is now a President's & Life Members' Luncheon on Wednesday, 17th November. We wanted to find a way to hold the President's Luncheon which had to be postponed twice due to COVID-19 restrictions, so we have combined it with the Life Members' Luncheon. The RSVP deadline is Friday, 5th November. If you have already responded with an attendance list for the President's Lunch on 14th July and/or 27th August, please contact the District Secretary with an update of attendees for November. Table sizes are 8.
2. Veterans' Health Week Activities: make sure you have your applications in to DVA for assistance for activities. It was noted that one application has not been accepted by DVA. SED will be holding bare foot bowls at Merthyr Bowls Club for 50 people from 3.00-5.00pm, followed by a barbecue at the back of SED on Thursday, 4th November (before the Council Meeting). Please book your bowling teams with Peter Murray.
3. Information on grants to end homelessness was circulated to all Sub Branches on 16th August. The priority for the 2021-2022 program is projects that focus on ending and preventing women's homelessness, especially chronic homelessness. This is defined as an episode of homelessness lasting 6 months or longer or multiple episodes of homelessness over a 12 month period or more. People in this category are likely to have one or more of the following:
 - developmental disability
 - traumatic brain injury
 - serious physical health problems
 - history of abuse or trauma
 - mental illness
 - mental disorder
 - psychiatric disability
 - addictions

If interested, you need to contact The Mercy Foundation to discuss your proposed project before completing the Expression of Interest form. Their telephone number is: 02 9911 7390. If you would like this information to be resent to you, please contact the District Secretary.

95/21 BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

There was nothing arising from the correspondence.

96/21 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The District President delivered his report.

1. The Vale list is very significant and very saddening. It shows the vulnerability within our ranks, but it also indicates the importance for us to reach out to those who are vulnerable and failing to say "you're not alone". The Sub Branches were encouraged to visit or phone any members who are failing and just let them know that the RSL is there for them.
2. The reason for the council meetings where Delegates give up a night each month is so that SED can move business along with the authority of the whole Council. The Sub Branch members who attend with no voting power were asked to gain the authority to vote from their Sub Branch Board. The Delegate should attend and, if that is not possible, then the Replacement Delegate should attend on their behalf. It is hoped that each Sub Branch gives the primary person the power to vote.
3. The District President informed all present that he has resigned from the Board of RSL Qld so that he can focus on the following issues over the next two to three years which are not easily achieved under the dual role at both SED and State:
 - a. The SED business so that there is the funding to action the things that SED would like to achieve.
 - b. Increase the membership and the Vale Report shows why we should be working harder on this.
 - c. Wellbeing for veterans. DVA has moved OCT scan (back of eye) from the DVA rate and the DVA occurrence to the MBS rate which is significantly less and once a year. There are more specialist doctors and specialist allied health practitioners who are dropping out of the DVA system because the DVA rates no longer support the services that they provide. The MBS rate increases at a rate that just doesn't match the increased medical and allied health costs per year. The District President felt that the costs of equipment and staff that those people need should be the issues where his time and energy is spent. The various volumes of the ACCC, the ACNC and the Corporations Law dictate that when anyone operates as a director of any company their primary role, purpose and loyalty should be to that company. This sometimes conflicts with the District President's role as President of SED. To effectively carry out his role exclusively at SED, the District President feels it is necessary to resign from the RSL State Board.

Motion: The SED Council met today on 2nd September 2021 and approved the resignation of Kerry Gallagher AM as a Director from the RSL Qld State Board but to remain the District President until the expiration of his term.

Moved: Bulimba

**Seconded: Darra & District
CARRIED**

The date was questioned by Toowong but it was clarified by the Company Secretary. Manly Lota questioned whether this could be achieved constitutionally but it was confirmed by the District President that there was nothing in either constitution to say otherwise. It just needed Council endorsement.

- d. Young voices on the State, SED and Sub Branch Boards. Doug Egan, SED's Senior Vice President has agreed to become the SED Representative on the State Board and the District President asked for the Delegates' support to Doug's nomination to go forward. State requires SED's Council support.

City / New Farm saw this as a positive change especially as medical benefits have not been increased appropriately for many years but questioned whether the District President would have more clout lobbying for issues as a State Board Member rather than as District President. The District President stated that the State Board could easily dismiss issues and if the SED

Council wishes to pursue an issue, the District President would like to have no restrictions in pursuing that issue. He has every faith in Doug Egan on the State Board.

Motion: The SED Council proposes that Doug Egan, Senior Vice President be nominated to RSL Qld to become the SED representative on the RSL Qld State Board.

Moved: Defence Service Nurses

Seconded: Defence Service Women's

CARRIED

97/21 TREASURER'S REPORT

The District President set the scene, stating that SED's main income comes from the leases from Events on Oxlade and Merthyr Bowls Club. The Treasurer gave them some support and grace in terms of their rental and that reflects in our budget outcome. SED have significant assets including the Logan property.

The Treasurer delivered her report.

Moved: Judith Munday OAM

Seconded: Manly Lota

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

CARRIED

Manly Lota and Logan Village questioned Greenslopes' expenses. The District President confirmed that the money is going on the two employees who are there. The Board approved one appointment and it will finish on 30th September. The other appointment is the permanent Co-ordinator. The Treasurer disputed the comment that Greenslopes is never open. It is open. The contract and wages are confidential. The Coordinator is getting a basic market rate for her position and the other wage is a confidential matter between the individual and the Board. The District President explained that the Board decided that the end of September would see the end of the major outgoings there. They have been to develop both the facility and the relationship with Greenslopes and Ramsays. There have been two reductions in the payments made to that individual during a period of time. The negotiation was between the individual and the District President in line with the Board's direction. There was a suggestion from Holland Park Mount Gravatt that the purpose of Greenslopes should be re-circulated to stop any misunderstandings. The District President confirmed he would bring the details of the Greenslopes' business to the next Council Meeting and that there has been a significant growth in business since the Hub reopened.

Stonehouse presented to the Board on Tuesday, 31st August. The Board have to change signatories, give them copies of proof that the District President is legitimately the Chair of the Board and decide on whether to have a more aggressive or defensive investment risk for the future. Stonehouse will advise the best course of action to take under the current climate. Hopefully there will be more to report at the next Council Meeting.

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: Holland Park/Mount Gravatt

"That the Solvency Statement has been accepted."

CARRIED

98/21 MOTION ON NOTICE: Bayside South Motion (c) (held in abeyance on 3rd June 2021)

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.

The Company Secretary advised the Delegates that this motion was submitted to RSL Qld in advance to it being discussed and voted upon.

Moved: Judy Alterator

Seconded: Toowong
CARRIED

99/21 REPORTS

- a. SED District Advocate – Nothing further to report since the District’s Advocate Report circulated to the SED Board and Sub Branches on 6th August.
- b. Sub Branch Reports – Bayside South (June and July), Beaudesert (June, July & August), Defence Servicewomen’s (August), Forest Lake & Districts (June), Greenbank (June, July & August), Kilcoy (June and July), Macleay Island (May, June & July), Toowong (June-July) and Beerwah delivered their report verbally and updated the Council with their new committee positions and other matters.
- c. Sub Branch Newsletters – Beaudesert (May, June & July), Forest Lake & Districts (June, July & August), Greenbank (July & August), Holland Park-Mount Gravatt (May), Kilcoy (August), Nerang (July & August), Redlands (Bugle – June & August), Sunnybank (August).
- d. Membership Demographics – Nothing to report. The Senior Vice President will have a more comprehensive report to bring to the next Council Meeting.
- e. SED Welfare – Nothing to report at this stage. More detailed report will be available next month.

Moved: Judy Alterator

“That the Reports be accepted as presented”

Seconded: Tramways
CARRIED

100/21 HONOURS AND AWARDS: Russell John Wiseman, Life Subscriber of Wynnum Sub Branch was awarded his RSL 50 year membership certificate and briefly described his service history. Royston Harvey, Yerong Dutton Park was due to receive his 50 year membership certificate at this meeting but it will be presented to him instead in November at his Sub Branch.

101/21 NOTICE OF MOTION: After discussion on Redlands RSL Sub Branch’s motion in relation to Anzac Day, the Redland’s Delegate / President withdrew it and will take it back to the Sub Branch to re-work it.

102/21 GENERAL BUSINESS

1. The District President updated the Delegates on RSL Australia’s stance on making representations to Government to allow Afghanistan nationals who worked for Australia in Afghanistan emergency visas for their safety. He stated that the advocacy for that to

happen is on-going and will continue. The reality of it happening is becoming increasingly difficult. The Delegate from Manly Lota brought a newspaper article: 'a call to help Afghan mates' to the Council's attention regarding a veteran from the Redlands area. The District Secretary to circulate to all Sub Branches. The District President assured all Delegates that the national organisation has already commenced and continues to push that these Afghanistan nationals who have been significant in their support of Australian Forces over 20 years would be brought to some area for safety until their credentials are endorsed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and, if appropriate, brought to Australia. The advocacy from RSL and other bodies is on-going.

2. Vietnam Veteran's Health Week function was addressed by Peter Murray under minute 94/21/2 (Out).
3. Peter Beauchamp, the SED Advocate updated the Delegates regarding Greenslopes and advocacy for SED. Peter is helping Matthew Rowe in looking after the Greenslopes Hub and is in contact with a number of people who are requiring support. Having seen the Veteran Services' presentation, Peter has some ideas where Veteran Services from RSL Qld can help. The District Secretary to circulate Bradley Skinner's presentation to all Sub Branches and give Bradley Skinner's details to Peter. Peter stated that he is there if anyone needs help and his details are available through the District Secretary. He hopes to be in the position of SED Advocate for at least another year.
4. The Company Secretary has been given a useful, detailed report from the Chairman of the Governance, Constitution and Awards Committee (GCAC) regarding incorporations for Sub Branches that are unincorporated and want to become incorporated. District Secretary to circulate this to all Sub Branches.
5. The District Secretary thanked the Delegates for their patience while she has been settling into her role and for their prompt responses to various requests. She is particularly grateful for help with last minute requests for poppy services. A time critical issue is ensuring that the wording is correct in all Sub Branch AGM minutes so that each Sub Branch's vote counts at the State AGM. As you are all no doubt aware, the wording is as follows:

"person x is appointed as delegate for y sub branch and, in the event person x is unable to attend, person z is appointed as delegate"

If this wording is not in your AGM minutes, please put it on your next general meeting's agenda to approve the appointment of your **Delegate** and **Replacement Delegate**. The correctly worded minutes need to be sent to the District Secretary as soon as possible. Other updates were: Sub Branches are responsible for MMS updates; and User Access Request (UAR) forms are to be authorised by the Sub Branch President or Vice President before emailing them to the District Secretary.

6. The Delegate from Darra stated that Bill Wallace's funeral notice cost \$420 to put into the Courier Mail as the Courier Mail have to buy the RSL logo from State. The Treasurer explained that she has been negotiating with State for years to make a deal with Courier Mail, but nothing yet has happened. In the last two years the cost has more than doubled and is now \$320 to use the logo. It was questioned whether you need to include the logo. The District President confirmed that that was a Sub Branch decision and it was, in his opinion the right thing to use it to show respect and recognition of the member who has passed away. It was thought that it would lessen the notice without the logo and it was noted that it helps to draw veterans' attention to the funeral notice. The District President will speak to the Senior Vice President who will take it up with State to seek financial support for using the RSL logo in the Courier Mail.
7. George Royes requested clarification regarding the RSL name on Clubs. Greenbanks have taken their sign down on the instructions of State and SED. He has heard conflicting comments as a result. The District President confirmed that the RSL name is protected

and belongs to the Sub Branch. There has been a historic use of the term RSL Club but it is not approved, endorsed or agreed by State or National that the name should be used for a Club. It relates to a State Government Act. The District President will ask State for a definite statement on this but essentially it relates to Queensland legislation.


8. The Sunnybank Delegate asked for an update on SED training days and the District President confirmed that an initial programme will be circulated within September.
9. The City / New Farm Delegate is running a Wealth & Wellness Evening at SED on Wednesday, 15th September. They have three speakers: Chris Smith, Dennis Scanlan and Hayley Bryan. The District Secretary to circulate details to Sub Branches and expressions of interest can be made on the website. The District President emphasised that SED would be more than happy to publicise any Sub Branch activities to help get the word around.
10. The Delegate from Coorparoo reported positively about the signage at Greenslopes.
11. The Welfare Officer from Macleay Island has queried why DVA reports regarding assessments and benefits for members are not circulated to Sub Branches. Bradley Skinner will find out and report back.
12. Hayley Bryan thanked all Sub Branch members who she has visited for their time and feedback and will be visiting the remainder of Sub Branches soon.

103/21 NEXT MEETING – Thursday, 7th October 2021 commencing at 6.00pm.

104/21 SUB BRANCH UPDATES – Greenbank and Ashgrove to be deferred to the next meeting. Greater Springfield have been steadily growing as a Sub Branch. They currently have about 40 service members and 65 members in total. Their demographic is working families and the focus is on pre-school, during school and after school care, to build connections within supporting community groups because the Sub Branch alone can't provide all these services that their veterans' need. They are:

- a. organising some activities for Veterans' Health Week.
- b. moving into a community centre on a permanent rental basis, so they are at the forefront of the community.
- c. starting to make ties with the YMCA and involve defence families into some of their programmes.

105/21 CLOSURE – There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50pm.


Kerry Gallagher
President


Judy Alterator
Company Secretary