

RSL SED WELLBEING REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022

Over the course of this month SED RSL wellbeing put together over 25 Wellbeing Packs for delivery to Veterans in need. Four packs were offered to a small group of Veterans who did not put their hands up for a pack, they asked if anything was available for THEM to hand over to several other Vets in need. One pack is with the QPS Beaudesert for hand over to a homeless Veteran. The majority of packs have been delivered to the RSL SED Wellbeing Center at Greenslopes hospital. Rosie Pullman, wellbeing@rslsoutheastqueensland.org or phone 0733947235.

This month I convened a meeting with a group of Veterans known as GRUNTS Australia. This is a welfare/wellbeing group of Afghanistan, Vietnam, Iraq and Timor Leste Veterans going the distance as a charitable organisation attending to Veterans in need. Their Harley Davidson's, Indians and other assorted motor bikes tend to make one look back. Well, nothing to be afraid of here as this group formerly known as The Infantry Special Forces and Commando's Group are now an approved charitable organisation and registered across Australia. They front up to Veterans where at times, 'others don't'. They can be contacted through their web page: gruntsaustralia.org where details etc can be found. They support the RSL and Veterans on the 'other side of the law' and also with Veteran male parents in need, known as D.A.D.S, [Dad's against discrimination support] ph: 0431 862 954, info@dadsqld.com, www.dadsagainstdiscriminationsupport.com.au If your aware of Veteran dads in need then contact this group as the do go out of their way to assist. These days we have so many former military groups popping up all over the place with their hands out and at times you may wonder where your money goes and who feeds off it? Well, these two groups I have yet to see or hear of them putting their hands out. If your Sub Branch is available to listen to their story, take on board what their intent is, then go for it as you and a great number of YOUNG Veterans will not be disappointed.

Outreach to the Veteran community through Sub Branches is a constant act that requires volunteers to extend themselves especially when numbers are down and the calls for assistance weigh heavily on some.

If you know of community members willing to assist the league in supporting our Veteran community, then go ahead and prompt them to come along to your Sub Branch and see what it is you actually do. For far too long we may have been seen as the pints, parmies and pokies mob, well not so and that's what we have to put before the public.

Other support agents for our League members are the wives, husbands, partners, families, friends of our members who daily go the extra length to support us. And let us never forget the Womens' Auxiliary and their constant efforts in assisting, working, going the extra mile, all for Veterans and families.

In the later part of this month discussions were held with the 'Queensland Retired Police Association' in Redlands to ascertain what assistance is available to Military Veterans in the Queensland Police Service and what if any support for these Veterans is available when they are in or leave the 'job'? A former NSW and Queensland Police member is undertaking Advocacy training with the ATDP and his DVA wellbeing and compensation training is to the fore both as an RAR Afghanistan Veteran and Police Veteran. The crossover of organisations is something that I believe does require attention. Our Veterans, RSL Members or not are valuable and their wellbeing should be to the fore. Meetings with the QRPA look to be an ongoing exercise and further discussions with the association and in the near future with Blue Hope the outreach organisation assisting and supporting Police. This is a not-for-profit charity that provides support to current and former Police and their families.

www.bluehope.org.au 929 Kingsford Smith Drive 3 Eagle Farm Qld 4009.

We are ALL Veterans in one shape or other and support for Veterans be they Police, Ambos, Qld Fire & Emergency Service members, Qld Health, aged care or other support staff, our outreach as RSL members and Veterans runs deep in assisting OURS and their families. Your valued advice and suggestions are sought as to RSL SED Wellbeing involvement with other organisations assisting Veterans. These days, volunteers are hard to come by and our outreach could do at times with extra assistance.