



THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

## ALBION PARK RSL SUB BRANCH

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# Newsletter No 62 OCTOBER 2018

## Presidents Address

Regrettably, Don McIntosh has resigned from the position of Vice President and he is also unable to assist as a volunteer with the Macquarie Day Club. Don has put in many hours as a Sub Branch volunteer and we wish him better health in the future.

We give notice that we will be calling for nominations to fill the vacancy of Vice President and will call a vote during the December General Meeting on the 5 December 2018. Please consider nominating for this position.

Please support Remembrance Day especially remembering those members who have passed this year. We will remember them by placing a plaque on our newly renovated Memorial Wall and getting their families to place the first poppy on their loved ones plaques

Please read the attached shortened version of the State RSL Consultative meeting in reference to the first draft of the new constitution prepared by our Treasurer Mr Beau Byers. This meeting was attended by Illawarra Sub branches at Diggers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October.

## Executive Contact

### Numbers

#### President

Robyn Hanckel – 0400 413 958

#### Vice President

Wayne Burgess – 0488 229 705

#### Secretary

Peter Ellis – 0433 633 445

#### Treasurer

Beau Byers – 0411 735 232

#### Welfare Officer

Deborah Hamilton – 0403 611 189

Office – (02) 4257 5172

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

11 NOVEMBER 2018

Please come to our 11.00AM service

Sub Branch Cenotaph corner of  
Tongarra Road and Hamilton Road  
Albion Park

Light refreshments served afterwards

## Next General meeting

1<sup>ST</sup> Wed of the month (07 NOVEMBER 2018) 7:00PM<sup>1</sup>

# Advocacy Support through IVES

**IVES (Illawarra Veterans Entitlement Service) has moved from Jamberoo to the Warilla RSL Sub Branch located at 70 Queen Street or on the corner of Queen and Booth Street, Warilla. We will be manning the office most Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday mornings for appointments. Ring in for appointments or for a visit as some days we are away visiting other RSL Sub Branch's on a Outreach basis.**

IVES has been going for over 18 years during which it has trained up many pension officers and advocates. At the moment they have some very experienced people on board to cater for an ever increasing demand for entitlement matters.

If you had a claim refused because you could not achieve having smoking related to your service I advise that you should have an interview with a pensions advocate. 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke or passive smoking can be related to your service and your circumstances of service may meet the criteria.

Ischaemic Heart Disease features regularly on death certificates and rules of having it related to service have changed. It is set out that if you have a clinically significant disorder of mental health then this can be a causation of heart disease. This means if you only have say PTSD or Depression accepted then if you meet other criteria you may qualify to have the heart disease included as service related.

## Information

IVES -  
02 42 36 1940  
(message Bank)

## SECRETARIES REPORT

State NSW RSL Branch is touring regional centres providing talkfests on our proposed new RSL CONSTITUTION. It's in a draft form at the moment and they are looking for feedback. Hopefully they will hold a 'Extraordinary State Congress' this December in Sydney to ratify it and it will become the bible for our existence. Obviously we cannot fund raise for ourselves until this Constitution comes into effect as it contains important clauses that must be inclusive so that the State Branch can hold a 'Fund Raising' licence under NSW law and become a registered charity with 'Public Benevolent Institution' and 'Tax Deductable Recipient' status under Federal law.

It is my tip that once this new constitution comes into effect there will be a tsunami of new By Laws, circulars and Regulations issued by State Branch.

State Branch has always said that it has no control over the WBI (Welfare & Benevolent Institution) which holds the charity dollars for welfare and advocacy. Obviously it's a conflict of interest when the same three trustees have been in charge of WBI and State Branch. I am just pondering if WBI will get its own constitution because it fund raises also. Watch this space.

Our Sub Branch is now open for Affiliate Membership, partners of our members are now eligible to nominate to join. Obviously we also would like to attract the younger serving or ex serving person as members. The RSL culture has to change. Long gone are the days where one group of veterans had to wait till the older group dies off before they take up the reigns. The younger veteran has the nous and commitment to keep the Sub Branch going. Remember when the RSL started off at the end of WW1 all of the veterans were young and they did a good job running the RSL didn't they. It is incumbent on all of us to recruit new members and promote the good work that a RSL Sub Branch does. For the record, the term 'veteran' includes any service person of the Australian Defence Force.

**RSL NSW  
Extraordinary  
General Meeting  
to vote on  
Constitution  
4 December 2018**

**RSL NSW Constitutional Update**

**President and Treasurer attended meeting on**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October at City Diggers**

**RSL NSW Attendance:**

**RSL NSW State President James Brown**

James Wagner, Research Assistant at ANZAC House

Leighanne Myer, Law specialist writing constitution

Brian Slattery, State Council

Mick Bainbridge, State Council

**Constitution**

The new draft constitution is not close to being finalised, and more detail will be included in the next draft which will be delivered for consideration by the end of the month. It was purposely left as a scaffold so that the Sub Branches could be consulted to fill in the detail in accordance with the member's wishes. The new constitution will comply with all laws and legislation, so some legal jargon needs to be included. It also must be completed correctly the first time, in the least amount of time as possible. The old Constitution is 716 pages and riddled with errors and inconsistencies from additions over the years. It does not comply with law. For members awareness, a panel of 30 Service Members from all over the state review every draft constitution, advise on changes and additions to State Branch before it is released as a draft to the rest of the State. This process will continue and many issues that Sub Branches and members are identifying have already been picked up by the panel. All feedback is welcome however, and members are encouraged to make individual submissions to State Branch through their Sub Branches to ensure that everything is covered and every member has a say.

**Sub Branches must choose between two options, Model A or B:**

**Model A (suitable for larger Sub Branches)**

Has a board of 3 Directors, and are fully responsible for all assets, deeds, property and funds. They will not have to submit budgets to State and the Directors are fully responsible for the running of the club. They will have their own constitution created with State Branch, one director is appointed along with one person from State Branch and any changes to their own constitution need both persons to be in agreeance. This prevents either party making unreasonable changes to their constitutions. A levy of approximately 5% will be paid to RSL NSW, and a further fee can be paid to enable RSL NSW to manage administration and compliance (audits etc).

**Model B (previously called Chapter, suitable for small Sub Branches)**

Have a committee (current structure) that run the Sub Branch and are focussed on commemorative activities and veterans welfare. All funds and property are held in trust by RSL NSW and they will manage all compliance. All of the Sub Branches funds are amalgamated into one investment fund for best rates, but a ledger will be kept to account for the funds separately. Sub Branches will submit a budget to State Branch and when approved these funds will be released to the Sub Branch. Credit cards will be utilised for emergency (Welfare) funds. A process will be created for Sub Branches to request extensions of their budgets for unforeseen circumstances or opportunities. State Branch are not after all of the money, but if Sub Branches cannot find the people to become Directors for a Model A Sub Branch then State Branch must be accountable.

**One Member One Vote**

When voting for Directors positions each Service Member/Life Member will have one vote each, which is a legal requirement. Affiliates will not have voting rights.

**Full transcript of meeting can be found on our website:**  
<https://albionparkrsl.org.au/general-meetings/GM03Oct18>

## **Membership Fees**

The current capitation system costs more money to administer than it generates so will be discontinued. Future membership fees may be \$0, with 3, 5 or 10 year memberships made available for simplification. Another option will be a small amount for Service Members and Affiliates (potentially \$5), and currently serving members and life members \$0. Details will be worked out under new draft constitutions.

## **Congress**

Congress will be in Albury next year, possibly in October. This will enable RSL NSW to align its finances with the Financial Year and will ensure that RSL NSW have their financial figures to present to members, unlike previous years. Congress will then be shifted to Sydney in the future, as it is more central for all Sub Branches to get to. Voting at Congress will remain as a One Vote per Sub Branch system.

## **Affiliates**

Affiliates are an important part of our league and their work contributes to the running of many Sub Branches. While they are appreciated, the RSL is an organisation for Serving members and their families. For this reason Affiliates are not going to have voting rights for either congress or Directors. We are an ex-service organisation and by our nature it is military service that defines us. It is no sign of disrespect to the affiliates that these changes are being made. Our uniqueness is our military link, and if affiliates were able to dominate in the future we would become the same as many other charity's.

## **Day Clubs**

Day clubs are no longer majority Defence Members or families, so will transition away from RSL and move to RSL Life Care. This will fit better with what Life Care can provide. It will still enable RSL NSW to contribute to our local communities, but remove the burden of administration and funding from Sub Branches.

## **Fundraising**

A fundraising agreement has been met with WBI, and Sub Branches will be allowed to fundraise on their behalf for Remembrance Day. More detail will come out by the end of the month but this is a short term fix. The long term solution is for Sub Branches to fundraise directly for RSL NSW. All proceeds will be sent to State Branch, who will then return approximately 49% to Sub Branches for welfare. This process is the only legal way of doing it, and will also mean that Sub Branches do not have to account for every dollar spent by making sure it is used for the specified purpose of the fundraising activity. How this will work for smaller activities such as BBQ's or raffles is yet to be determined.

## **District Representational Council**

District Councils will be replaced a District Representational Council that will be made up of 11 district representatives. The representatives will be voted in by the district and will be given a budget from State for travel. 11 Districts are based on a new SES (State Emergency Service) zoning system. The new council will be able to trigger Special Congresses to deal with any major breaches by state council (75% majority trigger). The District Representational Council will also function to provide guidance and advice to State Branch to ensure that members wishes are taken into account during all decision making processes. Current districts will have 6 months to make any changes to the 11 zone proposal (to move borders to include Sub Branches that consider themselves from another district), and if no decision is made the default will be the SES Zones.

## **Conclusion**

RSL NSW has been a strong force for veterans and their families for the last hundred years, and these changes will ensure that we continue for at least another hundred years. The success of RSL NSW is due to the volunteers, so thankyou. Most of the changes to the constitution are driven by changes in law and best practice over the last hundred years, and we must adapt to comply with the law or we will cease to exist. All funds and property held by RSL NSW or its Sub Branches is held in trust for the benefit and welfare of veterans and their families, we do not own it. For these reasons we must sort out our compliance, change our practices and continue providing for the veteran community.

Members are asked to provide feedback on these matters at the next General Meeting  
The Sub Branch can then provide a consolidated return to State Branch.