



HIGHLIGHTS FROM STATE COUNCIL

MEETING HELD 21/22 AUGUST 2009

INCOME & EXPENDITURE REVIEW

The Finance, Audit, Risk Management Committee has conducted a 'Income & Expenditure Review' of actions of State Council as part of the overall Corporate Governance restructure. This matter was discussed during the Congress seminars and should also apply to sub-Branches and all attached affiliates. While we may not be able to remove all potential risk factors, this process should assist to identify and if possible alleviate or reduce any possible damage claim against the RSL.

One of the risks already identified is that of finance, particularly noting the increase in National Capitations fees for 2010 by \$2.50 per person. A clear understanding from the Annual State Congress was that State Council/Branch should consider all possible means of reducing costs. Some possibilities for savings have been outlined in the current Reveille, and the Finance Committee has made further suggestions.

The following initiatives were agreed upon;

- Reveille, review of size and frequency as well as advertising restrictions.
- Not to proceed on the 'new' RSL membership packs at this time.
- Not to proceed with the "Ambassador" member benefit card.
- Review bulk mail flyers by others noting that some are included free of charge.
- The Annual State Congress Minutes will no longer be provided via hard copy but will be placed on the State Branch website.
- Encourage financial support from sub-Branches.

ANZAC DAY ANALYSIS

The Sydney "ANZAC Day March" Chief Marshal, Ian Callaway, has reviewed this year's March and advised that the outcomes are reasonably consistent within the current guidelines but will be further reviewed by the committee to work towards a better outcome for ANZAC Day 2010.

DISTRICT COUNCIL ISSUES

Now is the time for District Councils to consider their financial position for 2010. Any District Council that believes it will need financial support to meet its obligations for 2010 must immediately submit a budget to State Council for consideration. Assistance can be obtained by contacting State Branch.

It is a Constitutional requirement that all District Council Meeting Minutes (sub-clause 66.3) be sent to State Branch but unfortunately this has been not occurring for all District Councils. Perusal of these Minutes provides State Branch with the opportunity to pre-empt issues and be better prepared. There is great mutuality in ensuring Minutes are distributed in a timely manner.

On Friday 21st August delegates representing 13 District Councils attended a training seminar at the Hyde Park Forum as part of the Corporate Governance Training Initiative. A combined luncheon with State Council gave Delegates an opportunity network and share some thoughts on the 'way ahead'.

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

At their Annual State Congress the Women's Auxiliaries voted in favour of amendments to their governing By-Laws which were rewritten two years ago. It is encouraging that the Ladies are being proactive in their own corporate governance. Congratulations to the ladies on moving forward.

RSL LIFE CARE

State Council received a report from RSL Life-Care - a "Snap Shot" for the future of current development within NSW. This is an exciting time for 'our' retirement living organisation and a flyer highlighting the 'Snap Shot' is attached.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM STATE COUNCIL

MEETING HELD 21/22 AUGUST 2009

RSL SERVICE RECOGNITION

RSL Life Membership nominations were presented to State Council and the Life Membership Committee made specific comment that the quality of citations and general presentations has significantly improved this year. While there is still room for improvement but many sub-Branch Secretaries and District Council Presidents are to be congratulated for their attention to detail.

90 Year Certificates have been approved for the following sub-Branches, Ballina, Burringbar, Dungog and Hornsby. State Council congratulates these sub-Branches and their members for maintaining the League's aims and objects for such a long period!

Sydney Veteran & Defence Expo

A Defence and Services Expo is to be held in March 2010 at the Penrith Paceway. The aim of the Expo is to provide an awareness of the services and facilities available to the Defence family in support of those who have and are still serving in the Australian Defence Force. This Expo is also open to the wider community to ensure a greater understanding of Defence health and support services and needs. As a joint venture between the Department of Veterans' Affairs and local ESO's the committee encourages participation from all interested parties. Final details will be advised closer to the date but further information can be obtained from the State

Patrons

This is not defined within the RSL Constitution and By-Laws, State Council is reviewing this and a policy will be presented soon.

STATE BRANCH WEBSITE

It is interesting to note that currently 270 RSL sub Branches and 14 District Councils have logged on and used the RSL website (July 2009 figures) with approx 300 sub-Branches registered for a login password. A comparison of WEB hits for the same period in 2004 shows 23,667 against 149,792 for 2009. It is pleasing to see that many within the community are interested in what our site offers.

By December 2009, a new RSL website should be in place, with a changed and interesting format – watch this space!

State Council has agreed that the minutes of all State Council meetings will be placed on the RSL website within 2 weeks of the meeting. This will provide a much more efficient and effective method of communicating with our membership at all levels. It was further agreed that the "State Council Flyer" will not only be posted to sub-Branches and District Councils but will also be placed on the website within one month of the meeting.

Welcome Home "Other Conflicts"

A proposal has been put to the League to consider having a "Sydney Says Thank You" parade, covering all other conflicts after the "Welcome Home Parade" for Vietnam Veterans. The parade would be for those who served in Iraq, Rwanda, Somalia, East Timor, Bougainville among others. This will be discussed by our State President with all parties with a view to consider further.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21/22 AUGUST 2009

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ISSUES – STATE COUNCIL/DISTRICT COUNCILS/SUB- BRANCHES

Most Corporate Governance Committees as reviewed at Congress 2009 have also moved into the final stages of development with the main task at this moment to define “Terms of Reference” for all State Council sub-committees. This will then give directions to develop “Budgets” and operating logistics for 2010 onwards. As with all of the governance issues, this will be an ongoing task.

The “Strategic Directions Committee” has noted by that the Mobile Team as lead by Darren McManus-Smith of South Lake Macquarie RSL sub-Branch is well below their budget expenditure. Our appreciation must go to the members of South Lake Macquarie RSL sub-Branch for their generous financial support of the Mobile Team.

With 2010 almost upon us, it is timely for sub-Branches and District Councils to plan ahead, not just for budgets but also for administration. There are many sub-Branches and District Councils that currently have the positions of Secretary and Treasurer combined and there are possibly others that are considering this. Please note that approval for the combination of these positions must be sought from State Council and the approval is normally for a given period. If your approval period is about to cease or you need a new approval, you are advised to contact State Branch ASAP.

This year many sub-Branches and District Councils have developed their own By-Laws and submitted them to State Council for approval. While some have already been approved it is important to consider the need for such documents, particularly noting the recent development of the Governance Manual. On examination one set of By-Laws was found to contain only five items that were unique to them and not contained in either the Constitution & By-Laws or Governance Manual. For some it may be easier to establish a “Procedures Manual”. State Council has a task group that assess By-Laws and if your sub-Branch/District Council would like to discuss this issue please contact the State Secretary’s Department.

State Council received a discussion paper which contained an analysis of State Council/Executive Meeting schedules. This analysis was conducted with a view to implementing the Congress resolution to remove the term “Honorary Officers” and to determine how State Council can be more efficient and effective in its meeting process. The recommendations contained within the paper have been agreed to by State Council with the recommendations being incorporated in the rewriting of the Branch Constitution. The key issues agreed upon are that the current ‘Honorary Officers’ will form the new State Executive, consistent with sub-Branches and District Councils, and State Council will meet nominally

RSL YOUTH HOSTEL – CABRAMURRA

Concern has been expressed by the Youth Council regarding the ongoing viability of the Ilma Allen Hostel at Cabramurra. It was agreed that a site inspection to determine the extent of repair and refurbishment is urgently required. Initial reports indicate that it may cost up to \$100,000.00 to restore and repair the facility. Further information will be provided when known.

GENERAL

Subsidy of membership fees by 6 sub-Branches has been approved this quarter. While these sub-Branches are to be applauded for providing assistance to their members it is also difficult to accept that there are some sub-Branches that are struggling to provide even the basic necessities due to minimal finances.

Other “Not for Profit” organisations have sought donations from the League, but under various Government legislations, we as a similar “Not for Profit” organisation CAN NOT DONATE to them regardless of the worthiness of the cause. It should be noted that a Commonwealth review is currently occurring on “Not for Profit” statutes and Acts of Parliament.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 21/22 AUGUST 2009

COMMUNICATION

State Branch has developed a Protocol on Teleconferencing that has already been successfully used in the last few months. The use of this system will continue to be used where significant efficiencies can be shown.

State Council also considered the current method used to invite members of State Council to attend sub-Branch and District Council meetings/activities. To expedite approval and to ensure a balance of visitations by Councillors requests should be directed to the State President. Visitations are an important element in communicating the actions and progress of State Council.

ANNUAL STATE CONGRESSES

The Queensland Congress was held 19th to 21st June 2009, with Vice President Bob Crosthwaite attended on behalf of our State President. Bob presented State Council with a report of the proceedings from Queensland noting there are some initiatives which may be of benefit to the conduct of our Congress, particularly the open forum/debate sessions. State Council will analyse their outcomes and make recommendations for our 2010 Congress.

Appointment of New Deputy Commissioner in NSW

The appointment of the new Deputy Commissioner in NSW was announced on Friday, 28th August 09. Mrs Jennifer Collins (no relation to Gary Collins) has been appointed as Deputy Commissioner. Jennifer has been acting Deputy Commissioner in NSW since Gary took up his appointment in Canberra as the Executive General Manager of the Repatriation Commission. We wish Jennifer well in her appointment.

Contribution to this Flyer

Draft Editor: R Crosthwaite VP
Input By: B Durbin Councillor
B Hardman Councillor
B Harrigan Councillor

NEXT MEETING

**The next meeting of State Council will be on
Friday, 20th and Saturday, 21st November 2009 at
ANZAC House Sydney**

RSL LifeCare: Report to RSL State Council – August 2009.

“ 70th Anniversary of the RSL ANZAC “War Vet’s” Village, Narrabeen – ANZAC Day 1939 – 2009”

RSL LifeCare is a national leader in the provision of care and support services to veterans, their dependants and others across New South Wales.

It is a preferred place of employment, conducts a premier teaching service through University affiliation and hosts a Chair of Veteran Health and Ageing.

The RSL ANZAC “War Vets” Village, Narrabeen, has been awarded Five Better Practice Awards from the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency – more than any other village in Australia.

RSL LifeCare maintains an enviable position and operates on a very sound basis, with a focussed and successful strategic plan.

1. Appointment of the Board: RSL State Council at the May 2009 meeting, appointed the following Directors to form the Board of RSL LifeCare Ltd, with effect from October 2009.

R Crosthwaite. OAM.	W Hardman.	G Kells. MC.
J Longley.	Dr S Macri. AM.	A Mulliner. OAM.
W Riddington	D Rowe. OAM	R White. AM.RFD.

The Board is a Board of Governance and conducts five (5) meetings through the year. Board sub committees meet in the alternate month. This format ensures an appropriate focus on the Strategic and Annual Plan, as well as the Master Plan for each village activity. All directors serve on one or more sub committees and participate in director training and development programmes. A director must be a member of the Institute of Company Directors. External appraisal of directors and mentoring of director/board dynamics occur to enhance their collective contribution to the business. To assist the Board in its duties and to meet its obligations, advisors to the board are utilized where necessary.

The overall business is managed by the RSL LifeCare Executive Team, comprising the Chief Executive Officer and functional General Managers.

2. Scope of Business: Current operations conducted by RSL LifeCare comprise, Ten (10) Villages in New South Wales and a large Care-in-the-Home service, providing care and service to 4,000 people – 2,000 in the community and 2,000 in our villages, We are also a significant employer of staff across the State.

/ 2

Sydney Metropolitan Area:

- * RSL ANZAC "The War Vet's" Village, Narrabeen: 500 care beds + 560 retirement living homes.
- * The Waterfront at Homebush Bay: All-age living on the water with the comfort of knowing that RSL LifeCare@Home is available if ever required.
- * Rowland Village, Galston: 135 retirement living apartments Plus a new 66-bed nursing home to be constructed.
- * The Lakes of Cherrybrook: 63 retirement living apartments.
- * Cherrybrook Gardens: 42 retirement living apartments.

Regional NSW:

- * Ex Services, Ballina: 120 care beds + 53 retirement living homes Plus a further 24 retirement living homes being planned.
- * Bayside @ Byron Bay: 61 care beds Plus 31 retirement living homes planned.
- * Linton Village, Yass: 82 care beds + 49 retirement living apartments.
- * Remembrance Village, Wagga Wagga: 36 care beds Plus a 44-bed extension being Built.
- * Myall Lodge, Hawkes Nest: 24 care beds.
- * LifeCare @ Home: Care in the Home / Veterans Home Care / Veterans Community Care / Private Care.

3. Some new challenges and goals for the year ahead:

During 2009/2010, RSL LifeCare will;

- * Commence construction of the 44-bed extension to the Remembrance Village at Wagga Wagga.
- * Commence full refurbishment of the Ex-Service Village Ballina including the provision of all single, ensuite rooms.
- * Commence full refurbishment of Bayside @ Byron including the provision of all ensuite rooms.
- * Completion of a new 66-Bed Nursing home at Rowland Village, Galston.
- * Linking with Nash Brothers to manage The Grange Lifestyle Village at Wagga Wagga – a New 185 villa retirement village.
- * Two new potential amalgamations to review.
- * Lodgement of the new Master Plan to redevelop RSL ANZAC "The War Vet's" Village, Narrabeen.

4. Acknowledgement: The Board, Executive, Staff and Residents, are extremely grateful for the support it receives from the RSL State and Sub Branches, RSL Women's Auxiliaries, RSL and Service Clubs and the many other groups and individuals throughout the community.

Rod White
Chairman

On behalf of the Board, CEO - Mr Ron Thompson and the Executive Team.