



HIGHLIGHTS FROM STATE COUNCIL

MEETING HELD 21ST AND 22ND NOVEMBER 2008

HMAS SYDNEY II

It was by invitation from the RSL of Western Australia, that our State President represented the NSW RSL, at the ceremony in Geraldton for HMAS Sydney (II) which was lost off the West Australia Coast 67 years ago. A memorial service was also held for the remains of a crew member found on Christmas Island at the Geraldton War Cemetery. The Sandgroppers from the RSL opened a hand of friendship and camaraderie to Don, and State Council resolved to show their appreciation for the hospitality. As HMAS Sydney was our namesake and home ported in Sydney, we owed it to her crew to participate and remember. Lest We Forget.

ELECTION OF STATE COUNCILLORS

It was outlined that when congressional elections are called, geographical areas are defined to give an equal distribution of candidates for consideration by members during the election, this being Northern Country, Southern Country and Metropolitan NSW. Once elections are completed all Councillors are known as Councillors or Vice Presidents and will possess no geographical location descriptor.

COMMENDATION FOR SERVICE TO THE LEAGUE

A draft document suggesting a Commendation for Service was considered on its merits. It will be considered further at the National level. It is similar to the ADF Commendation in shape & size and is to be awarded outside the "Australia Honours and Awards" and our current League awards.

NEW NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

This has been a new direction by the National Membership Forum. It has been accepted by this State Council in principal with amendments to meet the NSW Branch requirements under our Constitution and By-Laws. It is a more appealing form. It is simple yet effective and National Executive is currently seeking each State's feedback.

AUDIT AND FINANCE

The State Branch budgeting for 2009 under "Corporate Governance" has been adopted by State Council. It was also noted that application for financial assistance and support for District Councils had also closed. Closing date for 2009 assistance was the 30th October 2008. Those received by that date were adopted within the State budget. It has been a request of State Council and others, that a budget template be developed for District Councils. It is important to note that it is the role of District Councils to budget for Delegates and Alternative Delegates attending Congress from within. This is not the role of RSL State Branch to finance. Many sub-Branches send delegates & alternate delegates who in many cases are the executive members of the District Council. Considerations have been made if a need arises to assist a sub Branch to send delegates to Congress. In most cases financial sustainable RSL sub-Branches look after those with limited resources to call upon.

WEB ACCESS

Browsing of the RSL web-site has grown considerably each month. In January 2008 the number of hits was 111,919. In October 2008 there were 123,653 hits. This compares to January 2004 where there were only 22,617 hits recorded. State Council noted that there are currently 247 RSL sub Branches and 11 District Councils registered to have secure WEB access, out of approx 406 sub Branches and 23 District Councils. It is important that all sub Branches and District Councils take up this registration. This tool provides access to secure documents and in the future, the RSL constitution. Within this secure access, you will find most documents and forms to administer your organisation.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

After consultation with a variety of Stakeholders, a 10 year plan for the future has been considered by State Council. In addition there will be a concurrent 2-3yr outlook for the future. This new direction as a way forward will be distributed to stake holders in the near future.



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PUBLIC RELATIONS

John Gatfield has produced many Media items in relation to Commemoration as current, especially Remembrance Day, HMAS Sydney II service off West Australia. "Gatfield Media" also advises and drafts media responses for the NSW State Branch and our State President.

RSL LIFECARE

A letter inviting the RSL network to consider involvement has been received from RSL LifeCare. This request has been tabled for consideration on the provision of ongoing Aged Care and other services to veterans. RSL LifeCare will be invited to make a formal presentation to State Council.

BY-LAW 22, WELCOME TO "NEW MEMBERS"

This By-Law has been re-worked and adopted by State Council. It provides two options and will provide sub-Branches flexibility and options when welcoming new members. The amendment will be provided at the next Constitution update.

GRAYTHWAITE

The court handed down its decision in regard to the Graythwaite property. The League had been arguing that the trust should be handed to us to carry out the wishes of Sir Thomas Dibbs to provide care to veterans which were his wishes. Sadly the State scheme was chosen. The Graythwaite building is to be sold with the proceeds going towards the building of a public rehabilitation hospital at Ryde. State Council will consider its options.

FORMATION CERTIFICATES

It is pleasing to note formation certificates have been issued to several RSL sub-Branches. Sub-Branches have been approved for:- Brooklyn 70 years of service, Campsie for 80 years, City of Wollongong and Scone for a massive 90 years of service to the League. Congratulations from State Council on your longevity.

COUKNILLORS TASKS

Under our new "Corporate Governance", much work has been undertaken by Councillors within Special Task Groups. These groups were formed in August 08, with appropriate skills to look at, report back to this State Council in Nov 08 and complete as soon as possible. These groups covering, RSL Image, Membership, Stakeholders of the RSL, Corporate Governance and Commemoration, has taken on a high profile role and may co-opt additional members of appropriate skills. The task groups gave an up to date report to State Council. In addition, "Policy Development" is well under review with the new direction for the RSL. Most of this reinvigoration has been derived from additional training for councillors under good Corporate Governance procedures.

DISTRICT COUNCIL BY-LAWS

District Councils are submitting their own By-Laws for consideration and approval by State Council. On examination there are many areas which are either a direct lift from or are overlapping the State Branch Constitution and By-Laws. To enable a more consistent approach a review committee has been formed to formulate a draft set of "District Council By-Laws". Input from District Councils would be appreciated and can be addressed to the State Secretary.

PATRONS

When appointing a Patron to any organisation, much care and deliberation should be given as to what that patronage will entail. There is no policy within State Branch at this stage. It was made very clear by State Council that a "Patron" of a subcommittee of State Council is not acceptable to the RSL of NSW, and will not be approved.

NEXT MEETING

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