

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA (QUEENSLAND BRANCH)  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ROYAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, BRISBANE  
SATURDAY 24 JUNE 2023 AT 9.30AM

## 1.<sup>1</sup> AGM Commencement

The MC introduced the State President and Chairman who welcomed the attendees, recited the Ode, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair's introductory comments addressed the importance of the AGM, integral to the League's democratic processes and a way of demonstrating transparency and trust in the institution. The Chair noted that AGMs that worked best were most often ones that focused on ideas and not personalities, a good way for the AGM to progress.

The Company Secretary declared the 2023 Annual General Meeting for the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) (RSL Queensland) open in accordance with the Notice of Meeting distributed on 24 March 2023 and Clause 6.1 of the RSL Queensland Constitution.

Attendees were advised that the meeting was being recorded by a videographer commissioned by RSL Queensland, that this was to be the only recording of the meeting and that it would be posted on the RSL Queensland website after the meeting.

## 2. ROLL CALL

### 2 (a) Roll Call - RSL Queensland Directors

Stephen Day DSC AM	Tony Orchard
Wendy Taylor	Nicholas Gould
Bill Whitburn OAM	Christopher Hamilton
Les Nash (& Moreton District Delegate)	Ashley Naughton

### 2 (b) Roll Call - District Delegates (who are also members of the State Council of District Presidents)

Merv Brown OAM, Brisbane North District	Garry Player, North Queensland District
Pat Fairon, Gold Coast District	Dennis Pollard, Western District
Kerry Gallagher AM, South Eastern District	Neville Tarry, Wide Bay & Burnett District
Ian Hall OAM, Sunshine Coast and Regional District	Ken Willoughby, Far Northern District
Phil Luzzi, Pioneer-Fitzroy-Highlands District	

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<sup>1</sup> Note the numbering of items in the minutes corresponds to the sequence in which they were presented to the meeting and not that detailed in the 2023 State Congress Documentation.


**2 (c) Roll Call - Sub Branches**

Agnes Water / 1770	Gemfields	National Servicemen's
Airlie Beach-Whitsunday	Gin Gin	Nerang
Allora	Gladstone	North Gold Coast
Ashgrove-Bardon	Glasshouse Country	Nundah-Northgate
Atherton	Goodna	Oakey
Babinda	Goombungee	Orchid Beach / Fraser Island
Banyo	Goondiwindi	Pine Rivers District
Bayside South	Gordonvale	Pittsworth
Beachmere	Gracemere and District	Proserpine
Beaudesert	Grantham-Ma Ma Creek	Proston
Beenleigh & District	Greater Springfield	Rainbow Beach
Beerwah and Districts	Greenbank	Ravenshoe
Biloela	Gympie	Redbank Plains
Blackall	Harlaxton	Redbank
Blackbutt	Helidon	Redcliffe
Boonah	Herbert River	Redlands
Bowen	Herberton	Rollingstone
Boyne-Tannum	Hervey Bay	Roma
Bray Park-Strathpine	Highfields	RSL Defence Servicewomen's
Bribie Island	Holland Park Mount Gravatt	Runaway Bay
Bulimba District RSL	Home Hill	Russell Island
Bundaberg	Howard District	Salisbury
Burleigh Heads	Innisfail	Samford
Caboolture-Morayfield & District	Ipswich	Sandgate
Cairns	Ipswich Railway	Seaforth
Caloundra	Isis	Sherwood-Indooroopilly
Canungra	Jimboomba	Southport
Capricornia & Rockhampton	Kawana Waters	Springwood Tri-Service
Region	Kedron-Wavell	St George
Cardwell	Kenmore/Moggill	Stanthorpe
Centenary Suburbs	Kilcoy	Stephens
Charleville	Killarney	Sunnybank
Chinchilla	Kingaroy/ Mererambi	Surat
City-New Farm	Kuranda	Surfers Paradise
Clayfield-Toombul	Kuttabul	Tamborine Mountain
Clermont	Laidley	Tara
Clifton	Logan Village	Tewantin / Noosa
Cloncurry	Mackay	The Gap
Cooktown	Magnetic Island	Thuringowa
Coolum-Peregian	Malanda	Tiaro
Coorparoo & Districts	Maleny	Tin Can Bay
Crows Nest	Manly-Lota	Toogoolawah
Cunnamulla	Mapleton	Toogoom and District
Currumbin / Palm Beach	Mareeba	Toowong
Darra & District	Marian	Toowoomba
Dayboro	Maroochydore	Townsville
Deception Bay	Mary Valley	Tully

## 2 (c) Roll Call - Sub Branches

Defence Service Nurses	Meandarra / Glenmorgan	Tweed Heads & Coolangatta
Djuan & District	Mirani	Walkerston-Pleystowe
Edge Hill / Cairns West	Mitchell	Wallangarra
Emerald	Monto	Warwick
Emu Park	Mossman	Weipa
Esk	Mount Isa	Wondai
Farleigh and Northern Beaches	Mount Larcom	Woodford
Finch Hatton	Mount Morgan	Woodgate Beach
Forest Lake & Districts	Mount Perry	Wynnum
Gatton	Mudgeeraba-Robina	Yandina Eumundi
Gayndah	Mudjimba	Yarraman
Gaythorne	Murgon	Yeppoon
Geebung, Zillmere, Bald Hills,	Nambour	Yeronga Dutton Park
Aspley	Nanango	

**The Company Secretary declared that the total number of District and Sub-Branch delegates present and entitled to vote was 190.**

## 2 (d) Executives in Attendance

Robert Skoda, Chief Executive Officer  
 Troy Watson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Veteran Services  
 Leigh Goldsmith, Executive General Manager, People and Organisational Performance  
 Angela Jones, Executive General Manager and Chief Information Officer  
 Kerri Ryan, Executive General Manager, Corporate Services  
 Simon James, Company Secretary

## 3 Apologies

The following Sub Branches were registered as Apologies:

Ayr	Hughenden	Maryborough
Barcaldine	Injune	Miles
Bell	Julia Creek	Moura
Calliope	Kalbar	Mt Molloy
Cairns & District Ex-Service	Kenilworth	Mundubbera
Women	Kooralbyn Valley	Rosewood
Charters Towers	Leyburn	Tramways
Cooroy-Pomona	Longreach	Winton
Dalby	Lowood	Wowan
Edmonton	Macleay Island	Yarrabah
Hellenic		

**Motion: That the apologies be accepted.**

- Moved:** Mt Isa
- Seconded:** Oakey
- Carried:** (Voting by show of hands)

## 4 AGM protocols and electronic voting

The Company Secretary provided contextual commentary on the AGM's proceedings, as detailed in the State Congress documentation.

Protocols with respect to motions, and amendments to motions, were explained and the procedure for members to address the meeting for the purposes of raising questions or providing commentary was clarified.

The meeting was briefed on the requirement for polling for each motion and the use of the Lumi electronic voting system, to fulfil that purpose.

The operation of the Lumi voting system, and the confidentiality of the voting process was explained to delegates. Delegate comfort with the system was confirmed using two 'test' motions.

The Company Secretary then welcomed State President, Stephen Day DSC AM to the Chair.

## 5. Appointment of Returning Officers and Scrutineers

The meeting was advised that it was proposed that a representative and staff of RSL Queensland's independent Auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) would act as the Returning Officer and scrutineers for the meeting.

**Motion:**

**That a representative of the independent auditor for the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch), Andrew Weeden (PwC) and staff be appointed as the Returning Officer and Scrutineers for the 2023 Annual General Meeting.**

**Moved:** RSL Queensland Board

**Seconded:** Marian

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 177 (93.16%)*

*Against: 10 (5.26%)*

*Abstain: 3 (1.58%)*

**Carried**

## 7. Acceptance of the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The meeting was informed that, in accordance with the Constitution, the draft minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting had been distributed electronically via districts, six weeks after the 2022 AGM and made available on the RSL Queensland website.

**Motion:**

**That the draft minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.**

**Moved:** RSL Queensland Board

**Seconded:** Mudjimba

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 176 (92.63%)*

*Against: 1 (0.53%)*

*Abstain: 13 (6.84%)*

**Carried**

## 8. Presentation and adoption of the State President (Chair) of RSL Queensland 2022 Annual Report

The meeting was advised that Annual Report of the State President (Chair) of RSL Queensland had been provided to members electronically and had been available on the RSL Queensland website since 24 May 2023.

The Annual Report was taken as read.

**Motion:**

**That the Annual Report of the State President (Chair) of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) for 2022 be adopted.**

**Moved:** RSL Queensland Board

**Seconded:** Redbank

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 186 (97.89%)*

*Against: 0 (0%)*

*Abstain: 4 (2.11%)*

**Carried**

## 9. Receipt of the Auditor's Report

It was confirmed that the Auditor's Report had been provided to members within the State Congress Documentation.

The Auditor's Report was taken as read.

Attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions of Andrew Weedon a representative of PwC the independent auditor, who was in attendance.

A member questioned whether or not the report should be accepted in light of the 'federal investigation' into PwC.

The meeting was advised that it was the view of both the RSL Queensland State Branch Audit and Risk Committee and the Board that, considering the separation between the audit and tax sections of PwC, the satisfaction with both the audit services provided by PwC and the integrity of the personnel engaged during their tenure as auditors, that there was confidence in the report.

### **Motion:**

**That the Auditor's Report on the Financial Affairs of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) for the year ending 31 December 2022 be received.**

**Moved:** RSL Queensland Board

**Seconded:** Goodna

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 184 (96.84%)*

*Against: 4 (2.11%)*

*Abstain: 2 (1.5%)*

**Carried**

## 10. Presentation and adoption of the audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2022

The audited Financial Statements had been provided to members in the State Congress Documentation, (commencing at page 36) of the document and were taken as read.

Attendees were provided the opportunity to ask questions of Kerri Ryan, RSL Queensland Executive General Manager, Corporate Services, and the Chief Executive Officer regarding the audited Financial Statements and no questions were raised.

### **Motion:**

**That the Audited Financial Statements of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) for the year ending 31 December 2022 be adopted.**

**Moved:** RSL Queensland Board

**Seconded:** Mt Isa

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 188 (98.95%)*

*Against: 2 (1.05%)*

*Abstain: 0 (0%)*

**Carried**

## 11. Appointment of Auditor

### Motion:

**That PricewaterhouseCoopers be appointed as External Auditor for the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) Group, comprising RSL Queensland and its Related Bodies Corporate.**

**Moved:** RSL Queensland Board

**Seconded:** Bowen

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 152 (80%)*

*Against: 30 (15.79%)*

*Abstain: 8 (4.21%)*

**Carried**

## 12. Motions from State Branch, Districts and Sub-Branches

### 12(a) Motion from State Branch

#### Amendments to RSL Queensland's Constitution

Given that this is a Special Resolution, the voting requirements were clarified.

Members spoke for and against the motion.

Commentary in favour focused on the various financial and tax benefits that would accrue to member organisations applying for PBI and DGR status in the event that the motion was carried.

While those speaking against sought to clarify the purpose of excluding Clause 2.1.5: '*encourage loyalty to Australia and secure patriotic service in the interests of Australia*' which was considered to be too important, given its alignment to the values and mission of the League to be omitted, and one not fully reflected in the proposed changes to the constitution before the AGM.

The meeting also discussed how the League's funds might be spent if the League was awarded PBI status. It was clarified that the dispersal of funds, while the prerogative of individual Sub Branches, Districts, and the State Branch, must remain aligned to the Objects as stated in the constitutions of those organisations.

The Chair requested that prior to considering any amendment to the motion, that State Branch would seek a legal opinion and, that in the interests of time, subsequent items on business should be addressed. The meeting would return to this item when the matter was clarified so that members would be in a better position to apply the appropriate level of care and diligence in regard to this important motion.

The Meeting returned to this item immediately after **item 12(c)(iv): Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch**

The meeting was advised by the CEO that the reinstatement of clause 2.1.5 was in order and that the motion had been amended accordingly to reflect that change.

The chair put the revised motion to the meeting:

#### Motion (as amended):

**1. That the Constitution of the Returned and Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) be amended to replace clause 2 with the clause 2 as set out in appendix A with the**

addition of the wording in the current object 2.1.5 as stands; and 2. That the Board be empowered to do all things necessary and expedient to give effect to these changes including, if necessary, seeking the approval of relevant government departments and by effecting minor corrective or administrative changes that do not materially affect the changes as approved.

**Moved:** RSL Queensland Board

**Seconded:** Gatton

A vote on the motion was called:

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 181 (95.26%)*

*Against: 9 (4.74%)*

*Abstain: 0 (0%)*

**Carried**

## 12(b) Motions from Districts

### Wide Bay and Burnett District

The meeting next addressed the motion from Wide Bay and Burnett District:

In speaking for the motion, the meeting heard commentary regarding the increasing need for, and challenges of, providing financial support for funeral expenses, particularly given the increasing cost of funeral services and significant variation in costs between providers.

In speaking against the motion, the meeting was asked to consider current COF funding which is available for this purpose. The possible use of the Eternal Flame Foundation was also suggested as an alternative source of funds for this purpose.

The meeting was also provided with an assurance regarding the availability of funds for this purpose, availability that might obviate the need for a separate funeral assistance fund.

**Motion:**

**That the Wide Bay and Burnett District Branch resolve to request RSL Queensland create a separate funeral assistance fund given the ageing demographic of RSL Queensland members or, provide an increase in Charitable Objects Fund (COF) funding to cover the increasing requests for funeral assistance. On behalf of the District's members, we request that this topic be an agenda item for the State AGM where further input by other RSL Queensland delegates can be voiced.**

**Moved:** Wide Bay and Burnett District

**Seconded:** Gayndah

A vote on the motion was called:

*Votes received: 190*

*Poll results:*

*For: 67 (35.26%)*

*Against: 120 (63.16%)*

*Abstain: 3 (1.58%)*

**Defeated**



**12 (c) Motions from Sub Branches****12 (c) (i) Emerald Sub Branch**

The meeting next addressed the motion from Emerald Sub Branch:

In speaking for the motion, the meeting considered the need to ensure that the sacrifices made by Australians serving in the ADF were not forgotten, and that the proposed introduction, and its frequent use, was considered an important adjunct to events such as ANZAC day and the other patriotic activities conducted by the League. It would increase recognition of veterans past and present on a much more consistent basis, particularly important for younger Australians.

The meeting also considered matters such as the recognition of veterans in North America and the need to recognise veterans engaged in peacekeeping activities.

The meeting discussed the process for advancing the motion if adopted and the potential role of RSL National, in advancing this matter.

In speaking against the motion, the need for the introduction was questioned, particularly given the range and frequency of activities undertaken by the League to ensure appropriate commemoration and recognition of the veteran population.

**Motion:**

**That RSL Queensland Branch make the appropriate representations to have the following words included as an introduction when opening meetings of Federal, State & Local Governments and at other assemblies:**

**“Let us remember and give thanks to those who have given their lives from all theatres of war and who have given us the freedom and the rights we enjoy today.”**

**Moved:** Emerald Sub Branch

**Seconded:** Laidley

A vote on the motion was called:

*Votes received: 190*

*Poll results:*

*For: 149 (78.42%)*

*Against: 38 (20%)*

*Abstain: 3 (1.58%)*

**Carried**

**12 (c) (ii) Kawana Waters Sub Branch**

The meeting next addressed the motion from Kawana Waters Sub Branch:

In speaking for the motion, the meeting was informed that there were potential inequities in the current awarding of the medal and that an ADF specific award, as proposed would remove such inequities.

**Motion:**

**That the Queensland RSL support the Domestic Emergency Operations Medal for ADF personnel that have been deployed on National Emergency Operations**

**Moved:** Kawana Waters Sub Branch

**Seconded:** Coorparoo

A vote on the motion was called.

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 135 (71.05%)*

*Against: 51 (26.84%)*

*Abstain: 4 (2.11%)*

**Carried.**

### 12 (c) (iv) Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch

The meeting next addressed the motion from Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch:

In speaking for the motion, the meeting was informed regarding the current system and the increasing burden being placed on Sub Branches, to provide these services with limited funds and trained advocates available. The time dedicated to the training required to deliver advocacy services, and the challenges and complexity of securing funding sources external to State Branch were also noted.

In acknowledging that services are also provided by the State Branch, the meeting was further informed regarding the intention of the motion, being to provide a comprehensive picture of how and by whom advocacy services are delivered across the League and to develop, if required and feasible, a fully funded paid advocacy service.

**Motion:**

**That RSL Queensland tabulate the numbers, funding sources and qualification levels for compensation advocates as follows:**

- paid employment by RSL Queensland
- paid employment by Sub Branches
- volunteers in Sub Branches

**and to determine the costs associated with these compensation advocacy services, to enable investigation into appropriate means of funding Sub Branch advocates.**

**Moved:** Tweed Heads & Coolangatta Sub Branch

**Seconded:** Redbank

A vote on the motion was called.

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 152 (80%)*

*Against: 31 (16.32%)*

*Abstain: 7 (3.68%)*

**Carried**

**At this point, the meeting reverted to item 12(a): Motion from State Branch**

### 13. Ballot for the election of the State Deputy President (Deputy Chair)

The Chair introduced the four nominees: Douglas Egan, Patrick (Paddy) Evans, Wendy Taylor and Barry Vains OAM, and the Company Secretary confirmed the validity of the nominations.

Each of the nominees addressed the meeting.

The Chair acknowledged the courage of all four candidates in standing for election.

The Chair called a vote for the State Deputy President. (Deputy Chair)

It was confirmed that all 190 votes had been received.

**Wendy Taylor was confirmed as the State Deputy President / Deputy Chair.**

### 14. Destruction of Voting Information

The Chair called for a vote for the destruction of all voting information noting that, with the election results confirmed by the Returning Officer, all polling data would be deleted so that the data could no longer be retrieved or accessed.

**Motion:**

**That the form authorising the destruction of voting data be signed.**

**Moved:** RSL Queensland Board

**Seconded:** Mt Isa

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 186 (97.89%)*

*Against: 4 (2.11%)*

*Abstain: 0 (0%)*

**Carried**

It was noted that the data would be deleted from the Lumi Technologies equipment at the end of the meeting after representatives from both RSL Queensland and Lumi Technologies signed the document confirming the deletion. The Returning Officer would confirm that all voting data had been destroyed.

### 15. Confirmation of Appointment of Directors to RSL Queensland

The Company Secretary requested the meeting confirm the appointment of the Directors of RSL Queensland.

**Motion:**

**That the meeting confirms the appointment of the following members as Directors of RSL Queensland:**

- **State President / Chair: Stephen Day DSC AM**
- **State Deputy President / Deputy Chair: Wendy Taylor**
- **State Vice President / Vice Chair: Bill Whitburn OAM**
- **Les Nash**
- **Nicholas Gould**
- **Tony Orchard**

- **Christopher Hamilton**
- **Ashley Naughton**

**Moved:** Edge Hill

**Seconded:** Caloundra

The Company Secretary called for a vote on the motion.

*Votes received: 190.*

*Poll results:*

*For: 185 (97.37%)*

*Against: 3 (1.58%)*

*Abstain: 2 (1.05%)*

**Carried**

## 16. Meeting Closure

The Company Secretary advised the meeting that confirmation by Returning Officer that all voting data had been destroyed would be advised at the commencement of the afternoon session.

The Company Secretary declared the AGM closed at 12.08pm

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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Major General Stephen Day DSC AM

Chair

/ / 2024