

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 EHHQ 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.

Major General Stephen Day DSC AM

Chair

/ / 2024