



RSL Victoria State Executive Communique **Tuesday 30 June 2020**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the State Executive was held on 25 June 2020. It has been a privilege to be the Acting State President this last month and half. I am delighted that Rob will be returning tomorrow and wish him the best for the remainder of the year.

COVID 19 Response

Relaxing of social distancing sees many Sub-Branches beginning to re-open. We now have a date for when remaining commercial operations will commence but note that the COVID-19 situation is ever evolving. The State Branch staff remain focused on supporting Sub-Branches with the re-opening process and meeting mandated government COVID-19 safety requirements.

The State Executive continue to assess the financial impacts of COVID-19 upon the State Branch. Several in-depth budget reviews have occurred. The CEO and RSL Victoria leadership team has developed plans to meet new budget targets for the remainder of this financial year. Key measures include moving of some RSL Victoria staff to a four-day work week, the reduction of leave balances and a small number of redundancies.

Annual Conference (Annual General Meeting)

The State Executive reviewed the results of the straw poll sent out to Sub-Branches in May. 83 Sub-Branches replied to the poll and other Sub-Branches wrote direct to the State Branch to express their views.

The poll showed that roughly 60% of Sub-Branches were not confident that they could hold a Sub-Branch general meeting via technology. Many comments were received that Sub-Branch members may not be comfortable attending an Annual Conference via technology either. 54% of Sub-Branches felt that the State Branch Annual Conference should be delayed.

Many other States have delayed their State Branch Annual Conference due to the complexity of holding it on-line when considering the geographic and demographics of their membership. Taking Sub-Branches views and the approach of other State Branches into account, the State Executive has decided to delay the RSL Victoria State Branch AGM to 28 November. This decision has approval from Consumer Affairs Victoria. Formal calling of the Annual Conference will occur soon.

The State Branch intends to publish the 2019 Annual Report and Annual Financial Statements mid this year.

State Branch Elections

State Branch ballots have now been distributed. The closing date for the ballots remains 48 hours prior to the Annual Conference. The Returning Officer will provide separate communications on this.

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PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
STATE PRESIDENT: DR ROBERT WEBSTER OAM

The role of State Honorary Treasurer was discussed as no eligible nominations were received. The State Executive noted that the rules provide for the position to be considered at the Annual Conference.

Veteran Services

The State Executive were provided their monthly report on Veteran Services. The Chief of Veteran Services also provided a briefing on work towards a Resilient Veteran Strategy. The strategy aims to adopt a veteran centric approach that seeks to support the veteran and their family. Further work will be done on possible operating models prior to commencing consultation with the wider membership.

Future Assistance Fund

The State Executive approved the expenditure of the next round of FAF applications, this included:

May Decisions

- \$75K for the Healesville RSL Sub-Branch
- \$100K for the Reservoir RSL Sub-Branch
- \$100K for the Warrnambool RSL Sub-Branch
- \$75K for the Sale RSL Sub-Branch

June Decisions

- \$30K for the Pascoe Vale RSL Sub-Branch as a loan
- \$50K for the Wangaratta RSL Sub-Branch as a loan

The State Executive considered two motions from the Corporate Business Services Committee. The State Executive did not agree that 50% of contributions to the FAF should be refunded to Sub-Branches. It was resolved though that 50% of the overall FAF should be retained for use post COVID-19.

Property

Various matters regarding property were considered. Outcomes will be communicated to each Sub-Branch and included trustee approvals for:

- Watsonia RSL solar panel works
- Stratford RSL toilet and storage area works
- Mansfield RSL outdoor social area works
- Mentone RSL renewal of Telstra lease
- Kyneton RSL toilet works

Lee Webb OAM

Acting State President