



State Annual Conference

MEETING PACK

for

108th Annual Conference

Saturday, 15 July 2023

8:00 am (AEST)

Held at:

Sandown Racecourse

591-659 Princes Highway, Springvale, VIC 3171

INDEX

Cover Page

Index

Agenda

Attached Documents:

4.3 a Draft Minutes RSL AGM 16 July 2022.pdf..... 19

AGENDA

108TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Name:	State Annual Conference
Date:	Saturday, 15 July 2023
Time:	8:00 am to 5:30 pm (AEST)
Location:	Sandown Racecourse, 591-659 Princes Highway, Springvale, VIC 3171
Committee Members:	Robert Webster (Committee Chair), Andrew Hanns, Ange Kenos, David Martin, Des Callaghan, John Beslee, Lindsay Guerin, Simon Thorn, Terry Makings, Timothy Holden
Attendees:	Sue Cattermole (CEO RSL VIC), Darren Scammell (Independent Returning Officer), Kyle Prasser (EGM), Ben Webb (CVS), Paul Higgins (Strategic Consultant), Elizabeth Edwards (Branch Legal Consultant), Clint Brewster (COO), Greg Melick (National President RSL Australia), Jon Black (CEO RSL NSW), Melissa Johnstone (Minutes)

1. Delegate Registration

1.1 Delegate Registration 8:00 am (90 min)

2. State President Welcome

2.1 Acknowledgement of Country 9:30 am (1 min)

Robert Webster

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Chair will acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we meet.

'I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Elders of other communities who may be here today. I also wish to acknowledge all First Nation people who have served or are serving in the Australian Defence Force'.

2.2 Silent Tribute, Ode and National Anthem 9:31 am (10 min)

Robert Webster

The Chair will invite those present to join him in a silent tribute in memory of departed comrades. The Ode will be recited, followed by the Last Post and the National Anthem.

3. Key Note Speaker Address

3.1 Key Note Speaker Address 9:41 am (25 min)

To be confirmed.

4. Opening of the 108th Annual General Meeting

4.1 Pledge of Allegiance

10:06 am (4 min)

Robert Webster

The Chair will declare the opening of the RSL Victoria's Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the RSL Pledge of Allegiance, to be given by group recitation, led by the Chair:

"I (name of member) do hereby swear allegiance to the Commonwealth of Australia and its people and do hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Constitution of the Returned & Services League of Australia".

4.2 Message of Loyalty

10:10 am (4 min)

Robert Webster

The Chair will move that the following Message of Loyalty be sent to our Patron, His Majesty the King, to be conveyed through Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria:

"We, the delegates of the 108th Annual State Conference of the Victorian Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia, assembled in Victoria tender to Your Majesty in warmest affection, our expressions of continued loyalty to the Throne, and our hope that Your Majesty and family will be blessed with unbounded health and happiness, now and in the years ahead".

4.3 Draft Minutes of the 107th RSL State Annual Conference

10:14 am (7 min)

Robert Webster

The Chair will move that the draft Minutes of the 107th RSL Annual State Conference, as circulated, be received and adopted.

Supporting Documents:

4.3.a Draft Minutes RSL AGM 16 July 2022.pdf

19

4.4 Business Arising from the 107th State Annual Conference

10:21 am (10 min)

Robert Webster

- Acknowledgement of Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission advice received in relation to the proposed Rule Remit of the Hawthorn Sub-Branch concerning the application of a 2% levy on revenue across all Sub-Branches.

- Progress on providing greater communication consistency across the network - to be addressed by the State Branch 'Sub-Branch Connect' Project currently underway.

5. State President Report

5.1 State President's Report

10:31 am (15 min)

Robert Webster

The President will make an address to the Annual Conference on the achievements and highlights of the State Branch in 2022.

5.2 Presentation of the 2022 Annual Report

10:46 am (5 min)

Robert Webster

That the 2022 Annual Report, as circulated, be received and adopted.

6. State Branch Financial Report

6.1 Financial Statements

10:51 am (10 min)

Timothy Holden

The State Honorary Treasurer will give the Treasurer's Report for 2022 with supporting remarks from the Chief Financial Officer and move the following motion:

That the 2022 Financial Statements, as circulated, be received and adopted.

The State Honorary Treasurer will invite questions from the floor regarding the Financial Statements.

6.2 Appointment of Auditor

11:01 am (10 min)

Timothy Holden

The State Honorary Treasurer will move the following motion:

That Grant Thornton be re-appointed as Auditor for the 2023 Financial Year.

The State Honorary Treasurer will invite questions from the floor regarding the Appointment of the Auditor.

6.3 Branch Officer Honorariums

11:11 am (10 min)

Simon Thorn

The Chair will request the Chair of the State Executive Risk, Audit and Governance Sub-Committee – Mr Simon Thorn – to temporarily assume the role of meeting Chair for this item who will then present a motion to the members on Branch Officer Honorariums.

The proposed Honorarium amounts have remained unchanged for more than two years, having originally being reduced during the COVID lockdown period owing to the significant financial challenges faced by State Branch during that time.

The motion being: That the Annual Conference approves the payment of \$32,000 for honorariums for the 2022 sitting period to the following State Office Bearers:

State President \$15,200

State Senior Vice President \$ 5,600

State Vice President \$ 5,600

State Honorary Treasurer \$ 5,600

7. CEO Report

7.1 Review of 2022 State Branch Operations

11:21 am (15 min)

Sue Cattermole (CEO RSL VIC)

The Chief Executive Officer will provide a review of 2022 State Branch Operations.

8. Presentation of Strategic Plan

8.1 RSL Victoria Strategic Plan 2023-2028: The Case for Change

11:36 am (10 min)

Robert Webster

8.2 RSL Victoria Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028: Consultation & development process

11:46 am (10 min)

Paul Higgins (Strategic Consultant)

Explanation of consultation process undertaken in the development of the 2023-2028 proposed Strategic Plan Paul Higgins, Emergent Futures.

8.3 Progress of Reform - RSL NSW 11:56 am (15 min)

Jon Black (CEO RSL NSW)

Progress of Reform Agenda RSL NSW.

8.4 RSL Victoria Presentation of Strategic Plan 2023-2028 12:11 pm (25 min)

Sue Cattermole (CEO RSL VIC)

The CEO will provide a presentation on the RSL Victoria Strategic Plan 2023-2028 including hosting a question and answer session with Annual Conference attendees on the Plan.

8.5 Motion: RSL Victoria Strategic Plan 2023-2028 12:36 pm (4 min)

Robert Webster

The motion being: That Strategic Plan, as presented, is endorsed.

9. Lunch

9.1 Lunch 12:40 pm (60 min)

The Chair will adjourn the meeting for a 60 minute lunch break.

10. National President Address

10.1 National President Address 1:40 pm (15 min)

Greg Melick (National President RSL Australia)

The RSL Australia National President, Greg Melick, will address the Conference.

11. Guest Speaker

11.1 Guest Speaker 1:55 pm (15 min)

To be confirmed.

12. Policy Remits

12.1 Policy Remits 2:10 pm (5 min)

Robert Webster

The following policy remits will be proposed and debated. These remits require a simple majority to be passed.

12.2 State Branch Governance, Structure & Rule Review by 2025 2:15 pm (10 min)

Robert Webster

Subject to the outcome of the motion seeking endorsement of the RSL Victoria Strategic Plan 2023-2028, this Policy Remit may be withdrawn.

Owing to constraints in current structure, RSL Victoria will commit to a comprehensive review of State Branch governance structures including State Branch Rules before the end of 2025.

Rationale

The perceived shortcomings are evidenced in the structures, systems and procedures present in both State Branch and the Sub-Branch network. From a governance perspective, too many of the Rules concern themselves with either duplicating extant legislation and regulation, necessitating excessive administration and bureaucracy, and constraining officers of the organisation from freely exercising their duly appointed delegations.

A renewal of these structures would potentially serve to 'free the hand' of the whole of the RSL in Victoria, including State Branch and Sub-Branches, better realising and/or pursuing their charitable objects. Further, creating a more effective governance model would help drive the delivery of efficiencies in the day-to-day management of the organisation.

13. Rule Remits

13.1 Rule Remits

2:25 pm (10 min)

Robert Webster

The following remits that seek to amend the Branch Rules will be proposed and debated. These remits are special resolutions and therefore require a 75% majority to be passed.

13.2 Rule Remit 1 of 8 - State President - Notices

2:35 pm (10 min)

Robert Webster

That the Rules of the Branch be amended to include email as a valid form of notice, ensuring the Branch Rules reflect the prevailing standard of the Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations.

Rules affected: 4.13 Notices and 13.8 Notices - Meetings and Members.

Amend existing Rules 4.13 (a) and 13.8 (d) and replace with:

Rule 4.13 (a) to read: "A notice, written request or any other communication under these Rules may be served on a person either personally, by sending it by post to their last known address or via email to their last known email address provided."

Rule 13.8 (d) to read: "Every member shall communicate in writing to the Secretary regarding change of address. A notice, written request or any other communication under these Rules may be served on a member personally, by sending it by post to their last known address or via email to their last known email address provided."

Rationale

Current rule determines notices can only be delivered via post, and the addition of email to these Rules will bring them into line with current Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations.

13.3 Rule Remit 2 of 8 - State President - General powers of the State Executive

2:45 pm (20 min)

Robert Webster

That the Rules of the Branch be amended in respect to the general powers of the State Executive, where the current Rule refers to a specific charge formerly levied by the Branch; this fee no longer exists and should be removed from the Rules on this basis.

Rules affected: 1.1 Definitions and 7.2 General Powers of the State Executive.

Amend existing Rules 1.1 and 7.2 (b) (15) (ii) and replace with:

Rule 1.1 to delete: "Operational Support Fee" means a payment made for or on behalf of a Sub-Branch to the Branch to enable the Branch to provide support to Sub-Branches."

Rule 7.2 (b) (15) (ii) to read: "A fee in respect of a Sub-Branch that conducts gaming activities with the quantum of such fee to be set with the agreement of 75% of 10A Sub-Branches at a meeting of 10A Sub-Branches."

Rationale

The "Operational Support Fee" no longer exists and the proposed wording provides basis for current fee structure arrangements. Additionally, the inclusion of the 75% agreement requirement is in keeping with the provisions of 'special resolutions' as defined by the Associations Incorporation Reform Act.

13.4 Rule Remit 3 of 8 - State President - Display of addresses at Sub-Branches 3:05 pm (10 min)

Robert Webster

That the Rules of the Branch be amended in respect to removing the necessity for nominees for Sub-Branch Committees having to have their addresses included with publicly displayed information prior to elections.

Rule affected: 13.7 Elections of the Sub-Branch Committee.

Amend existing Rule 13.7 (l) (5) and replace with:

Rule 13.7(l)(5) amend to read: "The name of any person proposed for election as a member of the Sub-Branch Committee shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in the Sub-Branch premises for not less than one (1) week before the date of the election."

Rationale

The proposed change better reflects relevant protections of an individual's privacy as defined under federal and state laws and regulations.

13.5 Rule Remit 4 of 8 - State President - Accounts of the Sub-Branch 3:15 pm (10 min)

Robert Webster

That the Rules of the Branch be amended in respect to removing the blanket requirement on all Sub-Branches, regardless of their size and financial position, having to provide audited accounts.

Rules affected: 12.2 Regional Forum Composition, Selection and Meeting Arrangements, 13.6 Sub-Branch Committee, 13.9 Meetings of a Sub-Branch, 13.9A Annual General Meeting, 13.13 Accounts of the Sub-Branch, 14.8 Audited financial Statements of a Licensed Club.

Amend existing Rules 12.2 (h), 13.6 (h), 13.6 (q) (6), 13.6 (q) (9), 13.6 (q) (10), 13.6 (q) (11), 13.9 (e), 13.9A (b) (2), 13.9A (b) (4), 13.13, 14.8

Rule 12.2 (h) amend to read: "Where a Regional Forum maintains an administrative fund, the completed and certified accounts otherwise in accordance with obligations under the Act must be provided to the State Branch by 30 April each year."

Rule 13.6 (h) amend to read: "The Sub-Branch at its annual general meeting must appoint an auditor if required in accordance with the Act."

Rule 13.6 (q) (6) amend to read: "Decide upon the system to be adopted by the Secretary in the keeping of all books relating to the financial transactions of the Sub-Branch in accordance with the Act."

Rule 13.6 (q) (9) amend to read: "Cause to be prepared completed, certified and audited (if required in accordance with the Act) reports and accounts to the annual general meeting of the Sub-Branch together with an annual Statement of receipts and expenditure and a balance sheet showing the assets and liabilities of the Sub-Branch at the balance date;"

Rule 13.6 (q) (10) amend to read: "Send completed, certified and audited (if required in accordance with the Act) financial Statements to the Branch by 30 April each year;"

Rule 13.6 (q) (11) amend to read: "If applicable, attend upon the auditor to explain anything the auditor may require respecting the accounts;"

Rule 13.9 (e) amend to read: "If applicable, any auditors accounts and auditors report."

Rule 13.9A (b) (2) amend to read: "The treasurer of the Sub-Branch must submit the completed, certified and audited (if required in accordance with the Act) financial statements of the Sub-Branch in accordance with the Act for the preceding year."

Rule 13.9A (b) (4) amend to read: "The auditor (if applicable) of the Sub-Branch is to be appointed;"

Rule 13.13 Accounts of the Sub-Branch amend to read: "The completed, certified and audited (if required in accordance with the Act) accounts of the Sub-Branch must be provided to the Branch by 30 April each year."

Rule 14.8 Audited Financial Statements of a Licenced Club amend to read: "A Sub-Branch, which has leased or permitted a person to lease Sub-Branch Property to a Licenced Club, must provide a copy of the Licenced Club's completed, certified and audited (if required in accordance with the Act) financial Statements to the Branch within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the financial statements from the Licenced Club."

Rationale

The existing Rule represents excessive level of rigour and compliance for some Sub-Branches to meet, where this requirement exceeds the compliance needs of regulators, including Consumer Affairs Victoria and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. Proposed change harmonises Rules with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

13.6 Rule Remit 5 of 8 - Glenroy Sub-Branch - Disciplinary Matters

3:25 pm (10 min)

Robert Webster

That the rules of the State Branch be amended by including a new rule 13.7 (d).

Rules affected: 13.7 Elections of the Sub-Branch Committee

Amend existing Rule 13.7 (c) and insert new clause 13.7 (d), renumbering existing Rule 13.7 (d) to 13.7 (e), 13.7 (e) to (f), 13.7 (f) to (g), 13.7 (g) to (h), 13.7 (h) to (i), 13.7 (i) to (j), 13.7 (j) to (k), 13.7 (k) to (l), 13.7 (l) to (m) and 13.7 (m) to (n).

Rule 13.7 (c) amend to read: "Subject to Rules 13.7 (d), 13.7 (l) (4) and 5.11 (h) (1), a Service member, Life member or an Affiliate, may nominate or be nominated for one or more positions on the Sub-Branch Committee."

New Rule to be inserted at 13.7 (d) to read: "A Life, Service or Affiliate member who has been suspended by or from by: -

1. The Sub-Branch or the League by the Sub-Branch Committee or the State Branch or National Tribunal or
2. The Sub-Branch by the Sub-Branch Management under the provisions of the Liquor Licencing Act and Regulations

since the previous Sub-Branch AGM shall not be eligible to nominate for the Sub-Branch Committee for a period of 12 months following the completion of the suspension."

Rationale

Subject to clauses 13.7 and 13.7 (c) (1) a Service Member, Life Member or an Affiliate, of the Sub-Branch, may nominate or be nominated for one or more positions on the Sub-Branch Committee. A person who wishes to serve on the Sub-Branch Committee should support the objects of the RSL and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. A Member who has been the subject of the disciplinary action by the Sub-Branch in the preceding 12 months should be deemed as not having demonstrated the required qualities of a Sub-Branch Committee Member.

13.7 Rule Remit 6 of 8 - Swan Hill Sub-Branch - Affiliate Members

3:35 pm (10 min)

Robert Webster

To be read in conjunction with alternate proposed State Branch Rule Remit at 13.8.

That the rules of the branch be amended, as per the below changes.

Rules affected: 5.11 Affiliate of the Branch

Amend existing Rule 5.11 (e) (4)

Rule 5.11 (e) (4) amend to read: "for the purposes of this rule, a relative of a League member shall be any blood relative, step relative or in-law of the person who is or was eligible to be a League member (as the case may be)."

Rationale

The rule currently states Grandparent; but does not include great Grandparent. There was a case where Affiliate Membership was rejected by ANZAC House staff because the applicant used his Great Grandfather's details, there is currently no allowance for this in the rule. Our argument is if it wasn't for the great grandfather, there wouldn't be a grandfather. If this remit is accepted by conference, it will simplify the wording of the rule, make it easier to understand and cover any relative without being specific to the type of relative.

13.8 Rule Remit 7 of 8 - State President - Affiliate Members

3:45 pm (5 min)

Robert Webster

To be read in conjunction with proposed Swan Hill Sub-Branch Rule Remit at 13.7 as a proposed alternative to this Remit.

That the Rules of the Branch be amended, as per the below changes.

Rules affected: 5.11 Affiliate of the Branch

Amend existing Rule 5.11 (e) (4)

Rule 5.11 (e) (4) amend to read: "for the purposes of this rule, a relative of a League member shall be any parent, grandparent, great grandparent, spouse, brother, sister, child, grandchild, great grandchild, stepchild, son- in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, great aunt or great uncle of the person who is or was eligible to be a League member (as the case may be)."

Rationale

To improve consistency in State Branch Rules with regard to the availability of Affiliate Membership of the League to Service Members' familial connections.

13.9 Rule Remit 8 of 8 - Rokewood Sub-Branch - Affiliate Members

3:50 pm (10 min)

Robert Webster

That the rules of the branch be amended, as per the below changes.

Rules affected: 5.11 Affiliate of the Branch

Amend existing Rule 5.11 (e) (4)

Rule 5.11 (e) (4) amend to read: "...or a person who is, or has been, a member, for at least 6 months, of one of the following:

A State or Federal Police Force;

An Ambulance Service or Brigade;

A Fire Brigade or Fire Authority;

A State Emergency Service;

A Bronze Medallion member of a Surf Life Saving Club;

A Corrections/Prisons Officer;
or A member of the commonwealth or allied Merchant Navy."

Rationale

Australian merchant mariners have played an important role in three major conflicts in which Australians have been involved - World Wars I and II, and the Vietnam War.

During World Wars I and II, men who were professional sailors became caught up in the life-and-death struggles against Germany and her allies. Though they were not combatants, merchant mariners made a vital contribution to the outcome of both conflicts, transporting men and resources that were essential to the war effort. Merchant ships were either unarmed or lightly armed. They carried heavy, sometimes highly explosive or combustible cargoes, and were slower and less manoeuvrable than naval ships. Tens of thousands of merchant seamen lost their lives as enemy submarines, surface vessels, aircraft and mines took a heavy toll on Allied shipping.

In World War II merchant convoys crossing the Atlantic, the most violently contested shipping lane in the world, were protected by naval vessels. Every ship was compelled to travel at the speed of the slowest, which was often slower than a submarine. The danger was enormous, and in the war's opening years no-one sailing from a British or American port could be sure that they would reach their destination. At least 29 merchant ships were also sunk in Australian waters and around New Guinea.

During the Vietnam War, Australian National Line ships MV Boonaroo and MV Jeparit carried military supplies between Australia and South Vietnam. Boonaroo made two voyages, including one as a commissioned naval vessel while Jeparit, which was also commissioned into the navy, made forty-three.

We will never know the exact number of Australians who served or died during wartime service in the merchant navy. Estimated figures change as more research is done. However, around 1,000 Australian merchant mariners are known to have died serving the Allied cause during the two World Wars.

We should be mindful of all those who served, and are still serving, in the Australian Merchant Navy in the years since 1945, in peace and war. We should also remember those who have lost their lives not to the violence of the enemy, but to the ever changing and dangerous sea itself.

Merchant seaman are some of those 'gallant men whose grave is the unending sea', honoured in the ANZAC requiem every year. A large memorial to our merchant seafarers is on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, and commemorations are held every year on Merchant Navy Day, the 3rd of September, to honour their service and sacrifice. A service is also held that day at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

How they have been forgotten for so long is a mystery, but it is well past time our merchant seafarers were admitted as Affiliate Members of the RSL, and we strongly urge you to support this rule amendment.

14. Victorian Branch Elections

14.1 Victorian Branch Elections

4:00 pm (15 min)

Darren Scammell (Independent Returning Officer)

The Independent Returning Officer has conducted eligibility verification on all candidates nominated for this year's Victorian Branch Elections. The Independent Returning Officer will announce the results of the elections for the positions of:

- o State Vice President
- o Metropolitan State Executive Member (1 Position)
- o Country State Executive Member (1 Position)

The respective terms commencing immediately at the conclusion of the 2023 State Annual Conference, Saturday 15 July 2023.

15. Close of 108th Annual Conference

15.1 Vote of Thanks

4:15 pm (2 min)

Robert Webster

The Chair, on behalf of the delegates to the 108th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch, will move a vote of thanks to those who contributed to the success of the Conference.

15.2 Date & Location - 2024 Annual State Conference

4:17 pm (2 min)

Robert Webster

The Chair will move the following motion:

That the 109th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch be held in July 2024 at a time and venue to be determined.

15.3 Closure of Annual General Meeting

4:19 pm (1 min)

Robert Webster

The Chair will declare the 108th Annual State Conference of the RSL Victorian Branch, its Annual General Meeting, closed.

16. Break

16.1 Break

4:20 pm (10 min)

The Chair will adjourn the meeting for a 15 minute break.

17. Open Forum

17.1 Open Forum

4:30 pm (60 min)

Robert Webster

18. Annexure: Meeting Instructions

18.1 Meeting Instructions

Annual Conference Procedure

Agenda

All Sub-Branches shall receive a copy of the Agenda, Financial Reports and the proposed Strategic Plan 2023-2028 of the Branch, both in hardcopy and/or a digital version. The Annual Report of the Branch will follow both in hardcopy and/or digital form. Only the items included on the Agenda may be discussed without leave of the Chair and only where the Chair deems such a discussion to be in the League's interest.

Quorum

One 1/4 of the number of Delegates who have registered to be present shall be a quorum at Conference.

Delegates

Delegates must register their intention to attend via the registration link provided to Sub-Branch Secretaries. Registrations will not be accepted after Saturday 1st July 2023 [Rule 8.4(g)]. Delegates must be in attendance before the start of the Conference, late delegates will not be admitted entry into the State Conference once proceedings have begun.

Identification of Delegates

A Delegate must either present to the microphone in the room or use the 'raise your hand function' if joining remotely and await recognition by the Chair to speak. The delegate shall announce their full name and Sub-Branch (e.g. John Citizen, Melbourne Sub-Branch) each time they speak. Anyone that does not follow this process shall not be permitted to address the Conference.

Delegates who have transferred their right to speak or vote on a subject to a proxy Delegate shall not be entitled to address the Conference or vote.

Agenda Discussion

Delegates are asked to deal with items as they appear on the Agenda Paper. If a delegate seeks to have their agenda item dealt with out of turn because of an emergency, they are to seek the permission of the Chair and other delegates, to do so.

Discussion Confined to Motions

Subject to the Chair's right to permit discussion upon any matter deemed to be of importance to the meeting, no discussion shall take place except on a motion or amendment moved and seconded.

Delegates Cannot Voice Personal Grievances

No delegate may voice their personal grievance to the Conference, except where the Chair is informed beforehand of their desire to do so and approves of the personal details being furnished.

Speakers Time Limit

Unless otherwise resolved by Conference, the mover shall be limited to five minutes, the seconder to three minutes, and speakers on the motion to three minutes each.

A member seconding a motion or amendment without remark is not to be held to have spoken thereon.

When a motion or an amendment is moved and seconded, debate may ensue;

- not more than two speakers shall speak in succession either for or against any question and if, at the conclusion of the second speaker's remarks and upon a call from the Chair, no Member rises to speak on the opposite side, the motion or amendment shall, after the mover of the motion has replied, at once be put to the vote.
- A member who has spoken to a question may again be heard to explain themselves in regard to something material in part of their speech which the Chair agrees may have been misquoted or misunderstood, but such member must not introduce any new matter or interrupt a member who may be speaking, and no debatable matter must be brought forward or debate arise upon such explanation.

Addressing the Chair

On all questions, and during all discussion, the member speaking shall stand and address the meeting through the Chair.

Respect to Chair

Members must resume their seats upon the Chair rising to speak, and any member refusing to so resume their seat must be liable to immediate suspension by the Chair.

Suspension of order of business

The motion by two members supported by a two thirds majority vote of members present, may suspend the order of business provided the suspension is limited to the purpose for which it was granted.

Motions

- Amendments to Rules of the Victorian Branch RSL

A motion to alter any of the Branch Rules shall be moved at Conference only where the same has been submitted from a Sub-Branch, the State President and/or State Executive in accordance with the rules.

No such motion shall be dealt with by Conference unless notice thereof shall have been given in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, approved for inclusion by the Agenda Committee and full details have been forwarded to each Sub-Branch no later than 21 days prior to the Conference.

A motion to alter any of the Rules, must be in the proper form and carried by a three quarters majority of Delegates present and entitled to vote at the conference.

- **Other Motions**

No motion shall be dealt with by Conference unless notice thereof shall have been given in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, approved for inclusion by the Agenda Committee and full details have been forwarded to each Sub-Branch no later than 28 days prior to the Conference.

A simple majority of votes of Delegates present and entitled to vote is all that is required to carry such resolutions.

Motion not seconded

A motion not seconded is not to be debated and no entry of the motion is to be made in the minutes.

Motions discharged from agenda

A motion may, by permission of the Chair, be superseded at any time by another motion "That it be discharged from the notice paper", "That the question be adjourned", "That the question be now put", "That the next business be proceeded with" or "That the meeting be adjourned".

No member who has spoken to the main question will be permitted to so move.

Amendments to Motions

Only one amendment, which must be relevant to the question to which it is proposed to be made, shall be entertained at the one time. If the amendment be carried it shall be before the substantive motion, the original motion lapsing, and there shall be no necessity to put the original motion to the meeting.

An Amendment proposed but not seconded, shall not be entertained nor entered into the Minutes. Whether an amendment is carried or not, other amendments may be submitted, one at a time, to be decided in like manner until the subject is finally disposed of. No Member shall propose or second more than one amendment.

Amendments to special resolutions shall not be entertained that substantially changes the motion from that provided in the notice.

Amendments lost

In the case of all amendments being lost, the Chair is to put the original motion to discussion and vote.

Points of Order

A point of order may be raised by a delegate. Immediately a point of order is raised, current discussion will cease, and the Chair will determine the question and no discussion on a point will be permitted. (Points of correction such as that a speaker is not stating the truth are not points of order).

A point of order shall deal only with the conduct or procedure of the debate and the Member shall state their point without irrelevant details, The Delegate must establish that-

- They are speaking outside the question, or
- They are transgressing a Rule of the Branch, or
- They are infringing Standing Order or acting contrary to the general custom of debate.

Motion for “Question to be Put”

A motion “that the question be now put” may be moved at any stage of a debate and shall be put immediately without discussion. No member who has spoken to the motion or any amendment shall be permitted to move or second such a motion.

If lost, the debate shall continue. If carried, the mover shall have the right to reply, and the motion or amendment as the case may be, shall be put to the meeting without further discussion.

Delegate – Voting

As the Annual Conference will be held both in person and online, voting will take the following form

- via a web-based voting platform. One (1) registered Delegate per Sub-Branch will be required log into the platform and will cast the required vote on behalf of their members. Each vote will be weighted, i.e.: if the Sub-Branch has four (4) entitled Delegates, the vote cast will register as four (4) votes in the system.

Delegate – Absence

In the absence of a delegate from a Sub-Branch which has submitted an item on the agenda, the Chair may allow any delegate to move such item.

Disagree with Ruling

The ruling of the Chair upon any question under the Standing Orders or on points of order or explanation shall be final, unless challenged by at least one

fifth of those present, and two thirds of the members present vote against such ruling.

Upon the submission of a motion "That the Chair's ruling be disagreed with" the Chair forthwith shall leave the Chair. The Senior Vice-President present shall take the Chair or if none present a Chair appointed by the meeting. The motion shall then resume the Chair and debate on the original question shall proceed.

Penalty for breaches of decorum

A member violating any of these standing orders may be suspended by the Chair for the currency of the meeting.

A member refusing to retract any expression deemed by the Chair to be offensive is to be suspended until a retraction is made.

Recording Devices

No recording devices are permitted to be used during the Conference by anyone in attendance for the purpose of recording (either audio or visual) and part of the Conference.

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19. Close Forum

19.1 Close Forum

Next meeting: No date for the next meeting has been set.

Minutes of the 107th State Annual Conference



Saturday, 16 July 2022 – Promenade Room, Caulfield Racecourse, Caulfield

242 Registered Delegates representing 95 Sub-Branches

ITEM 1 – DELEGATE REGISTRATION

Delegates registered their attendance from 8:00 am

ITEM 2 – STATE PRESIDENT WELCOME

The Chair (Dr Rob Webster OAM State President) welcomed those present and online to the 107th State Annual Conference at 9:30 am. He confirmed that there was a quorum and invited all delegates to stand.

Acknowledgement Of Traditional Owners

The Chairman acknowledged the traditional owners of the lands on which we are meeting and recited the following:

'I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be here today. I also wish to acknowledge all First Nation people who have served or are serving in the Australian Defence force'.

Silent Tribute, Ode and National Anthem

The Chairman invited those present to join him in a silent tribute in memory of departed comrades. The Ode was recited, followed by the Last Post and the National Anthem.

ITEM 3 – NATIONAL PRESIDENT ADDRESS

The National President, Greg Melick AO RFD SC, addressed the Conference, highlighting the following issues:

- RSL Victoria was commended for leading other States in the collection of data on veterans.
- The impact of COVID was acknowledged. Membership has declined as a result and there is a need to attract younger members.
- RSL Australia's relationship with the Federal Government will not alter given the recent change of Government. Respectful dealings will continue. Veteran funding must be demand driven and the right amount needs to be in the budget to support it; and
- The current Royal Commission was discussed. Even though the focus is on veterans' suicide other issues, especially those of a strategic nature, other issues should not be neglected including:
 - Sub-Branches reaching out to veterans in their communities who need assistance rather than waiting for veterans to come to them.
 - Declining fuel and ammunition supplies being managed internally in Australia into the future.

Summing up, the National President emphasised the need to maintain a focus on veteran services and to think strategically to make sure that we remain credible.

The State President thanked Greg for speaking and then welcomed the attendance of Phil Winter as the National CEO.

ITEM 4 – OPENING OF AGM

Pledge Of Allegiance

The RSL Pledge of Allegiance was given by group recitation led by the Chairman:

"I (name of member) do hereby swear allegiance to the Commonwealth of Australia and its people and do hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Constitution of the Returned & Services League of Australia".

Recited

Message Of Loyalty

The Chairman moved that the following Message of Loyalty be sent to our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, to be conveyed through Her Excellency the Governor of Victoria:

"We, the delegates of the 107th Annual State Conference of the Victorian Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia, assembled in Victoria tender to Your Majesty in warmest affection, our expressions of continued loyalty to the Throne, and our hope that Your Majesty and family will be blessed with unbounded health and happiness, now and in the years ahead".

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Essendon RSL Sub-Branch

Carried

Minutes of 106th State Conference

The Chairman moved that the Minutes of the 106th State Annual Conference, as circulated, be received, and adopted.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Noble Park RSL Sub-Branch

Carried

Vero Voting: 177/0 (100%)

ITEM 5 – STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The State President presented the key achievements and highlights of the State Branch in 2021 including:

- An acknowledgement RSL Victoria's volunteer's service beyond service during the difficulties of the last couple of years. Most volunteers are veterans or family of veterans who have already given so much and are still giving for a common purpose.
- Changes to veterans' services in response to the changing needs of the veteran community since COVID. In 2021 and 2022 the Resilient Veteran's Strategy and Veterans Central Service has evolved and is moving toward a central model of support for veterans.
- RSL Victoria's Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide Working Party is readying itself to represent the network as Victoria's leading ex-service organisation when the hearing begins in Victoria.
- The use of new census data relating to veterans to inform future decisions concerning the league.
- A move toward a One League mindset and a new model for operational support for the 10A network.

The 2021 Annual Report was formally presented with a theme of “Growth”.

The State President formally introduced RSL Victoria’s new CEO Sue Cattermole and acknowledged the hard work of Acting CEO Mr Brian Cairns.

The State President welcomed two new members of the RSL Victoria State Executive, Lindsay Guerin from Inverloch Sub-Branch and John Beslee from Seaford Sub-Branch. Glen Ferrarotto from Montmorency-Eltham Sub-Branch was farewelled and thanked for his contribution.

Further thanks were given to the Executive Leadership Team, staff, and volunteers for their work on behalf of the league. Special mention was made to Rose Sorell for her efforts relating to the 107th Annual Conference.

President’s Report

The Chairman moved that the 2021 Annual Report, as circulated, be received, and adopted.

Moved: Chair

Seconded: Frankston RSL Sub-Branch

Carried

Vero Voting 183/0 (100%)

ITEM 6 – STATE BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORT

The State Honorary Treasurer (Tim Holden) presented the Treasurer’s Report for 2021. The following summary was provided:

Victorian Branch Inc

- Profit reported of \$2,710k
- When adjusted for Wodonga grant a loss of (\$502k) recorded.
- OSF not received in full during lockdown periods. Across 2020 and 2021 41% of contracted OSF was received from 10A Sub-Branches.

2022 Update

- OSF been received as contracted
- 2022 Budget based on recovery from 2020 and 2021
- Small cash reserves generated.

General Appeals Patriotic Fund (GAPF)

- Net Profit reported of \$341k.
- ANZAC Appeal (\$3.9m) and Poppy Appeal (\$2.7m) occurred outside of lockdown periods.

2022 Update

- Returns from Sub-Branches to date indicate a successful ANZAC Appeal
- GAPF supporting Veteran Hubs.

Delegate Questions

Bill Westhead (Warragul RSL Sub-Branch) - referred to page 12 of the Ernst & Young report referencing that RSL Victoria requires financial support and a bottom-up restructure. He expressed great concern about this report and whether RSL Victoria was in financial distress.

The State Honorary Treasurer confirmed that RSL Victoria is solvent but that more funds are always sought to deliver more services. Yes, more money is needed. RSL is looking at where funds are coming from and opportunities to diversify.

Financial Statements

It was moved that the 2021 Financial Statements, as circulated, be received, and adopted.

Moved:	State Honorary Treasurer	
Seconded:	Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch	Carried
Vero Voting	193/0 (100%)	

Appointment of Auditor

The State Honorary Treasurer moved:

That Grant Thornton be re-appointed as Auditor for the 2022 financial year.

Moved:	State Honorary Treasurer	
Seconded:	Hampton RSL Sub-Branch	Carried
Vero Voting:	201/1 (99.50%)	

The State President left the Chair, and the Chair of the State Risk, Audit and Governance Committee (Simon Thorn) assumed the Chair. State Officers were asked to leave the meeting

Branch Officer Honorariums

The Chair of the State Risk, Audit and Governance Committee moved:

That the Conference approve the payment of \$32,000 for honorariums for the 2022/2023 sitting period to the following State Office Bearers:

<i>State President</i>	\$15,200
<i>State Senior Vice President</i>	\$ 5,600
<i>State Vice President</i>	\$ 5,600
<i>State Honorary Treasurer</i>	\$ 5,600

Moved:	State Chair Risk, Audit and Governance Committee	
Seconded:	Doreen	Carried
Vero Voting	191/15 (92.72%)	

The State President resumed the Chair.

ITEM 7 – CEO’S ADDRESS

Brian Cairns - Interim CEO (2021-2022)

Brian confirmed that he was Interim CEO of RSL Victoria from August 2021-July 2022. He presented the following highlights in relation to RSL Victoria’s performance in 2021 during the challenging lockdown period:

- A significant increase in veteran’s support:
 - There are more people working in veterans support than ever before. A key feature being 1300MILVET also known as Veteran’s Central offering that next level of support addressing challenging mental, physical and social issues alongside of the support of the network.
 - The development of the Veteran’s and Families Wellbeing Centres Program. The veteran hubs that provide boots on the ground support.
- The provision of Sub-Branch support including:
 - Day to day support during the COVID crisis.
 - The development of plans and strategies to support the networks emergence from covid in 2021.
 - Planning and development of the IGT membership system transition project and the new funding model for operational support
- Fundraising including celebrating one hundred years of the RSL’s Poppy Appeal. The Victorian community donated more than \$7million dollars in support.
- Strengthening of the brand including the development of a new website, further development of Mufti, annual report, and social media platforms.

Before handing over to Sue, Brian thanked the State President and the State Executive members, the Executive team, the RSL Sub-Branch network, the members, and volunteers.

Sue Cattermole - CEO

Sue outlined her father’s experience as a veteran serving in England during World War 2. She then gave a summary of her own background as:

- A Qualified Accountant, Company Secretary and Governance professional
- A Group CEO at St Vincent de Paul Victoria for 6 years
- Previous CEO role for an organisation managing Federal Government employment and training programs for a range of disadvantaged groups.

She outlined her recent achievements as CEO of St Vincent de Paul Society and what RSL Victoria represents to her, an organisation with a strong and meaningful mission. After outlining her observations of the organisation 10 days in, she explained that it is important for her to focus on the areas where she can add more value including:

- Stakeholder engagement
- Strategic Plan development
- Review of corporate governance
- Revenue diversification
- Reviewing the level of support for the Sub-Branches

ITEM 8 – BREAK

The meeting adjourned at 11.15 am for morning tea and resumed at 11.30 am

ITEM 9 – SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS FOR DEBATE

The State President announced that in accordance with the agenda, there is a requirement to suspend standing orders to discuss the work of the Electoral Reform Advisory Group. He asked for a mover and a seconder:

Moved	Nathalia-Picola RSL Sub-Branch	
Seconded	Kiewa RSL Sub-Branch	Carried
Vero Voting	194/0 (100%)	

The Electoral Reform Advisory Group (ERAG) was formed after the 2021 RSL Victoria State Conference with a goal to identify opportunities for improvement in RSL Victoria's electoral processes. Whilst the electoral practices of our League have historically served us well, it is our collective responsibility to ensure our processes are fit for purpose now and into the future.

Comprising Presidents and a Vice-President from 10A, 10B, and 10C Sub-Branches, ERAG undertook to engage with members and Sub-Branches across the League and report those findings to the State Executive. It is the belief of many that the greatest strength of the RSL is its members, and for this reason, ERAG deemed it essential that members had their opportunity to voice their opinions and views regarding the League and its electoral governance. Our League has been vital to veterans and their families for more than 100 years, and we believe that for RSL Victoria to continue its important role in supporting and advocating for veterans and their families, that debate and discussion are essential so we can understand the thoughts and views of our members

Eamon Hale (Returning Officer ERAG)

Slides were presented to the Conference which outlined the purpose and key membership of ERAG. The Returning Officer then presented his report:

Returning Officer Report

The following feedback was received:

- Recommended the introduction of a checklist to support Sub-Branches and assist with complying with the Constitution and Rules.
- Identified that 5 Sub-Branches had their votes disallowed in the 2021 State Conference.

The Returning Officer reported that ERAG Considered the following in response to feedback received from previous State Conferences:

- **Voting Models for the State Executive at State Conference**
 - 4 models were presented to Sub-Branches and individual member including:
 - 1 member, 1 vote
 - 1 Sub-Branch, 1 vote
 - Hybrid model
 - Current System

The reporting officer outlined how ERAG gathered information which was through bi-monthly meetings to determine options for models, an ERAG Survey, an ERAG information package and a report.

Responses to the survey from a Sub-Branch, individual member and total were presented to the Conference with Sub-Branched favouring the current method and members favouring 1 member, 1 vote.

- **Terms of Office for the State Executive**

- ERAG Proposed the following:
 - That Service members are elected for a term not exceeding 3 years
 - Maximum of 3 terms served consecutively
 - Can return after a 1 term break
 - No more than 5 but fewer than 3 members of the State Executive may be up for election at any State Annual Conference

A 12-point checklist produced by ERAG was presented to the conference. The checklist endeavours to assist with compliance with RSL Victoria Rules and Constitution for meetings.

The returning Officer outlined the future intentions of ERAG and asked that those who wish to obtain a copy of the ERAG documentation email him. He then opened discussion from the floor.

Delegate Comments

1. **Speaker not identified** - There was a suggestion that a copy of the report be sent to every Sub-Branch

Returning Officer ERAG concurred

2. **Speaker not identified** - concerns were raised about the disparity between individual vs Sub-Branch responses. Where did they come from within the League?

Returning Officer ERAG explained that he was happy with responses received from across the State.

3. **Peter Richie (Swan Hill RSL Sub-Branch)** – raised concerns that some Sub-Branched may not have received the paperwork from ERAG. Only 2 branches received it in his Region. He agrees with what ERAG is trying to do but they need to get the information to everybody.

Returning Officer ERAG – welcomed the feedback and explained that there was a concerted effort made to distribute information on several occasions. He explained that he wanted to get it out to everyone.

4. **Mick Quinn (Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch)** – expressed that there is a strong disconnect in that Sub-Branched who are saying what they want and what the membership wants. He felt that the Service Members who have an opinion are not being interacted with to the point that they want the ability to vote.

Returning Officer ERAG – The responses from Sub-Branched and individuals within the Sub-Branched varied.

5. **Jennifer Jacomb (Glenroy RSL Sub-Branch)** - raised several concerns as follows:
 - That it is offensive that it was implied that they current Executive haven't been effective with the Royal Commission
 - 1M1V will result in a social club
 - Getting AEC/VEC to do the voting would be very expensive and this money should be spent on the veterans and helping them.

- That there aren't appropriate transitional provisions for what ERAG has in mind and that overall, the voting model has been ill conceived and ill considered
- The slides are confusing and divisive
- That ERAG should go back and get it right and the material should have been provided before State Conference.

Returning Officer ERAG – responded as follows:

- That he would continue to engage with ANZAC House to get the information out to Sub-Branches.
- Regarding 1 member 1 vote, he clarified that this means 1 Service member 1 vote.
- In terms of cost, cost is varied and elections like this can also be conducted through free services. He agreed that money should go to veterans over voting.
- That ERAG wants to listen to the views of all members and that even members of ERAG had different views about the models. Each model was supported by different members of ERAG. He explained that ERAG wants to hear members views and give feedback on what those views are and that is why they are trying to engage with every single member.

6. **James Howden (Violet Town RSL Sub-Branch)** – expressed concerns about emails to Sub-Branches. People are using personal emails as Presidents and Secretaries and half of them are no longer connected. Money needs to be allocated to get Sub-Branches their own email addresses. Emails are getting lost, or they are not being seen. Phone numbers are also hard to get.

Returning Officer ERAG - explained that he will pass on the feedback to ANZAC House.

7. **Clarke Martin (Beaumaris RSL Sub-Branch)** – expressed that the new CEO's initial observations align with what ERAG are doing in relation to governance. He asked about the Returning Officer's thoughts on whether this could merge into the next steps for the RSL.

Returning Officer ERAG – expressed that he hopes it does and that he is excited to work with the new CEO. It's great to have a professional CEO that comes with a background like Sue's. In 2019 we discussed electoral reform and then COVID struck, and it is now time to make sure that our organisation is at the cutting edge.

8. **MacKenzie Craig (Nathalia-Picola RSL Sub-Branch)** – questioned whether ERAG thinks that the work is finished because it has really just begun and what was put out was really discussion papers than an absolutely finished product.

Returning Officer ERAG - explained that the role of ERAG hasn't finished. That ERAG has produced broad discussion points that ERAG seeks to engage with the membership on. The role of ERAG will continue for a number of years. The next step is to ensure that the checklist is disseminated, ensure that the ERAG report with its attachment is disseminated to all of you.

9. **Bob Richards (Dandenong Ranges RSL Sub-Branch)** – questioned the sample size for the voting model surveys and expressed concern that decisions should not be made with such a small sample size.

Returning Officer ERAG – conveyed that he was disappointed by the lack of responses and engagement. This is not the final product, and we will continue to gain responses and ideas.

10. **Speaker not identified** – stated that something must have gone wrong with the distribution of surveys and suggested that ERAG tries again and possibly use the ANZAC House email system.

Returning Officer ERAG – endeavoured to continue engaging with ANZAC House to improve the email system.

11. **Ash Power (ERAG, Wangaratta RSL Sub-Branch)** – conveyed that ERAG tried hard to distribute information but did not receive support from ANZAC House. He reinforced what the Returning Officer had previously said about ERAG wanting to consult broadly and that that it is only the beginning.

Returning Officer ERAG – Thanked Ash for his comments

12. **Peter Richie (Swan Hill RSL Sub-Branch)**– advised that Sub-Branches should go back to their secretaries and ensure that returns have gone back to ANZAC House with correct email addresses.

Returning Officer ERAG – stated that one of the requests is to get the report on the website and not only rely on email so that it is easily accessible.

13. **David Jamison (ERAG, Ringwood RSL Sub-Branch)** – expressed that there is a lack of member engagement and that communication issues will need to be resolved prior to the constitution and structural changes within the next 3 years. He encouraged State Office to get the information out well and in a way stakeholders will understand.

Returning Officer ERAG - concluded discussions and provided the ERAG email to delegates.

The State President advised that RSL Victoria put out requests for comment last year on the Royal Commission and got 2,500 responses. He advised that members are getting the requests.

ITEM 10 – RESUME STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders resumed at 12.15pm

ITEM 11 – POLICY REMITS

The following policy remits will be proposed and debated. These remits require a simple majority to be passed.

1. That the State Branch adopt the following policy position that RSL Victoria cease soliciting donations or requests for bequeaths (sic) directly from RSL members.

Moved: Warragul RSL Sub-Branch

Seconded: Phillip Island RSL Sub-Branch

Vero Voting: 106/108 (49.53%)

Lost

Delegate Comments:

1. **Mark Buttner (Warragul RSL Sub-Branch)** – Proposed the Policy remit. What is sought is for members to support their Sub-Branch in supporting veterans and veteran's families in their area. He asked that RSL Victoria forgo from soliciting donations from the public.
2. **Eamon Hale (Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch)** – Supported Warragul's motion. RSL Victoria should not solicit funds, instead funds should go directly to the Sub-Branch rather than Vic Branch.
3. **Ian Caines (Moe RSL Sub-Branch)** – Spoke against the motion. He argued that the State Branch and Sub-Branchees should be encouraged to generate as much funding as possible because it all goes toward benefitting the veterans. It should never be seen as them (State Branch) and us (Sub-Branchees). We are a network of brothers and sisters and should be part of the same team. State Branch often provide top up funding. He described how the State Branch stepped in to help a Veteran in need from his Sub-Branch, chipping in 50/50 because they did not have the funds. He suggested a compromise where State Branch run bequest campaigns at times other than Appeal times. He also argued that Woolworths be congratulated for getting funds into Veteran's support and that any organisation collecting money on our behalf should not be criticised.
4. **John Haward (Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch) – Spoke in support of Warragul's motion.** Supported a compromise during Appeal times. Sub-Branchees from time to time have donations from bequeaths and he felt that this should remain the same.
5. **Jennifer Jacomb (Glenroy RSL Sub-Branch)** – Spoke against the motion. Arguing that the remit cannot be passed and is a matter for the Company Secretary. The wording is RSL Victoria, we are all part of the one organisation, an incorporated association so if we say RSL Victoria can't solicit funds then the sub-branchees can't. You can't fix it by amending it.
6. **CEO** – gave context around fundraising and commented that there may be some confusion around where the money ends up. The ability to raise money across the board should not be restricted. Where the money goes need to be closely managed. We spoke about revenue diversification earlier. If you were to pass this, you will limit diversification across the whole RSL. You will restrict the money coming into the RSL if you pass this remit.
7. **Ben Vahland (Warragul RSL Sub-Branch)** - closed the debate with a comment that it is inappropriate to ask for a bequeath and it should be voluntary to help the people in their local area.

Bruce Turner (Rosebud RSL Sub-Branch) was given the opportunity to address the conference online. Whilst trying to connect Bronwyn Rowleson from Altona RSL Sub-Branch advised that in the previous remit Altona didn't get a chance to vote. She felt that their vote may have changed the outcome. She explained that she didn't raise her hand and only unmuted prior to closure of the vote.

The State President advised that the vote had been called and lost and that he had given reasonable warning that he was going to close the vote.

2. That the State Branch adopt the following policy position That the internal RSL Rewards logo be exempt from the 2021 Policy Remit excluding commercial operations from marketing on the membership card.

Moved: Rosebud RSL Sub-Branch

Seconded: Glenroy RSL Sub-Branch

Vero Voting 131/76 (63.29%) (based on legal advice)

Carried

Due to technical difficulties Bruce Turner Rosebud RSL Sub-Branch was unable to address the conference. Maffra & Orbost RSL Sub-Branches proposed to move on without hearing arguments from Rosebud.

Jennifer Jacomb (Glenroy RSL Sub-Branch) – supported the remit and commented that it was well considered.

Eamon Hale (Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch) – argued that the RSL rewards is only beneficial to 51 Sub-Branches. The card should only have things on it that benefits members such as the number for Open Arms and resources that veterans can use to help themselves. He felt that it didn't benefit members but only a small number of Sub-Branches.

Mackenzie Craig (Nathalia-Picola RSL Sub-Branch) – happy to move that in the case of technical failure if someone online says that they can't vote we should be able to hear and take the vote to add to the tally manually. Altona accepted this proposal.

The State President advised that technical advice received confirmed that it was a failure at Altona's end. President took vote from Altona as a Yes vote.

ITEM 12 – LUNCH

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12.45pm for lunch.

The State President indicated that advice had been sought regarding the technical issues and that because it is a poll, that once the poll been declared it was final.

The second motion will not include the four votes from Altona because it wasn't in the form of the poll.

The State President reminded those attending that no recording devices were permitted at the conference.

ITEM 13 – RULE REMITS

1. That the Rules of the Branch be amended to establish the Company Secretary role, ensuring RSL Victoria's Governance is consistent with contemporary best practice.

Rules affected 1.1, 4.6, 4.17, 5.10, 5.20, 7.2, 7.4, 7.6,8.4, 8.5, 8.8, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9, 11.1, 13.6, 13.7, 17.3 and 17.6.

Delete existing Rules 1.1, 4.6, 4.17, 5.10, 5.20, 7.2, 7.4, 7.6,8.4, 8.5, 8.8, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9, 11.1,

13.6, 13.7, 17.3 and 17.6 and replace as per tabled in the Agenda.

Moved: State Branch

Seconded: Greensborough RSL Sub-Branch

Vero Voting 195/15 (92.86%)

Carried

Delegates Comments:

The State President commented that term Company Secretary will be used in a generic sense, as in a role in a business. It is not implying that we will become a company down the track.

Eamon Hale (Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch) – argued against the remit in that the role of the Company Secretary should be a Service Member so that there is a full-time veteran's voice assisting the CEO in her duties. He advised that if it passes Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch will submit a motion to amend it next year.

Ian Caines (Moe RSL Sub-Branch) – spoke in favor of the remit and advised that after due consideration it could be reconsidered and amended in future.

John Haward (Box Hill RSL Sub-branch) – spoke in support of the remit, arguing that whether the Company Secretary is a Veteran or not is irrelevant. That a professional is needed, one who is up to date with modern business practices.

2. That the Rules of the Branch be amended to include Term limit provisions for State Executive members and Branch Officers, where these members/officers would be constrained to 3-year terms, with a maximum number of 3 consecutive terms able to be served as either a State Executive member or as a Branch Officer

Rules affected 7.4, 9.1, 9.3 and 9.4

Delete existing Rules 7.4, 9.1, 9.3 and 9.4 and replace as per tabled in the Agenda.

Moved: State Branch

Seconded: Torquay RSL Sub-Branch

Vero Voting: 162/46 (77.88%)

Carried

Delegates Comments:

David Jamison (ERAG & Ringwood RSL Sub-Branch) explained that the intent of the group doing the electoral reform work is for a 3year consecutive term and then a 1-year break before being eligible for nominating subsequently. The intent of this is a maximum of 9 years for an individual and he disagrees with it.

Jennifer Jacomb (Glenroy RSL Sub-Branch) – Opposed the motion. Arguing, if you are onto a good thing keep it. If we have a good committee, you keep them. If there is a bad committee member you fix it through an election which we do every 2 years.

Eamon Hale (ERAG & Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch) – explained that the intent from ERAG was that there is a 9-year period with a break at the end of that. This remit is broken into 2 parts. The key part is at the moment the State Executive sit for 2 years. ERAG were unanimous that 2 years isn't long enough, 3 years allows more time to put their stamp on things. ERAG supports the 3-year term. Hawthorn Sub-Branch supports it on the proviso that it is minuted that this is the start point we would submit a motion for amendment next year that at the end of those 9 years a 1 term break occurs and then you can return.

3. That the Rules of the Branch be amended to include provision for no more than 50% of the State Executive to be required to stand for election at any given State Annual Conference.

Rule affected 9.1 Delete existing Rule 9.1 and replace as per tabled in the Agenda.

Moved: State Branch

Seconded: Nathalia-Picola RSL Sub-Branch

Vero Voting: 202/4 (98.06%)

Carried

Delegate Comment:

Peter Richie (Swan Hill RSL Sub-Branch) – spoke in favor commenting that the remit will ensure continuity with the State Executive.

4. That the Rules of the Branch be amended to expand the applicability of honorariums to all Sub-Branch Committee members.

Rule affected 13.6. Delete existing Rule 13.6 (ee) as per tabled in the Agenda.

Moved: Altona RSL Sub-Branch

Seconded: Keilor East Sub-Branch

Vero Voting: 71/138 (33.97%)

Lost

Delegates Comments:

Bronwyn Rowleson (Altona RSL Sub-Branch) – Moved the motion arguing that members do long hours over many years, often outside of hours. There is an inequity in the current honorarium State Branch rule. She argued that it needs to be amended to reflect the positive work being undertaken by all members of all committees.

Ben Vahland (Warragul RSL Sub-Branch) – Spoke against the motion noting that volunteers are volunteers, and it is inappropriate to pay them.

Ian Caines (Moe RSL Sub-Branch) – Spoke in favour, however seeking from Altona an amendment. That State Branch obtain advice from an Auditor in terms of what level of honorarium would be applicable at this stage.

The State President reminded delegates that amendments to the rule's motions would not be considered.

Glen Ferrarotto (Mount Montmorency-Eltham RSL Sub-Branch) – argued against the motion stating that money should not be paid to volunteers.

5. That the Rules of the Branch be amended so that each Life or Service Member is entitled to One Vote for the State Executive elections.

Rules affected 10.3, 13.9 Delete existing Rule 10.3(d) as per tabled in the Agenda.

Moved: Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch

Seconded: Torquay RSL Sub-Branch

Vero Voting: 37/176 (17.37%) Lost

Eamon Hale (Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch) – argued that Service Members have served and defended democracy and should have the right to vote.

Mackenzie Craig (Nathalia-Picola RSL Sub-Branch)– argued that under the current rules every service and life member already get a vote, we get to elect our representatives and direct them how to vote. If people aren't complying with the rules, then we need to assist and get people to comply rather than introduce a more complex system. The current system doesn't prevent good people from nominating or being elected. It doesn't favour incumbents. The current system moderates the influence of absolute membership. It empowers and influences the role of sub-branches. This proposal will cause more distortion and it will cost more.

John Haward (Box Hill RSL Sub-branch) - opposed the remit and concurred with Mackenzie, if it isn't broken then don't fix it. Members at Boxhill are aware of the rules. He advised that you would get a very small amount of votes at a very high cost.

Jennifer Jacomb (Glenroy RSL Sub-Branch) – opposed to motion and advised that putting the names of nominees on ballot papers is inappropriate. Branches have allowed delegates to decide on the day. If we really want democracy, you should be able to have good conscious votes. There are better ways to do this, do not approve remit.

Eamon Hale (Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch) – closed arguments members of the RSL have served and fought for democracy and deserve to practice it.

ITEM 14 – VICTORIAN BRANCH ELECTIONS

The State President asked the CEO, on behalf of the Returning Officer, to report on Victorian Branch Elections.

Illegibility verification has been conducted by an independent returning officer. He advised that no positions were contested.

All nominated candidates will be duly elected with their respective terms commencing immediately. The nominated candidates are:

Dr Rob Webster OAM State President
 Mr Tim Holden State Honorary Treasurer
 Mr Simon Thorn Metropolitan State Executive Member
 Mr Ange Kenos Metropolitan State Executive Member
 Mr John Beslee Metropolitan State Executive Member
 Mr David Martin Country State Executive Member
 Mr Andrew Hanns Country State Executive Member
 Mr Lindsay Guerin Country State Executive Member

The State President introduced all the State Executive members to Conference and welcomed the two new members, John and Lindsay.

ITEM 15 – CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Vote of Thanks

The State President moved a vote of thanked:

- Staff at RSL Victoria
- Staff at the Racecourse
- The National President & CEO
- Elizabeth Edwards from Williams Winter
- Right Angle
- The State Executive
- The Executive Leadership Team

He thanked the Sub-Branches who participated online and moved a vote of thanks:

Vero Voting 186/0 (100%) Unanimous

A motion of thanks was moved by Mr Des Callaghan on behalf of all the Delegates to thank the State President.

Moved: State Senior Vice President
 Seconded: Keilor RSL Sub-Branch **Unanimous**

Date and Location 2023 Annual State Conference

The 108th Annual State Conference of RSL Victoria will occur in July 2023 at a time and venue to be determined.

Moved: State President Unanimous
Seconded: Apollo Bay RSL Sub-Branch

In closing, the State President again welcomed new members of the State Executive and farewelled Glen Ferrarotto.

He advised that awards would continue to be distributed presented at Sub-Branches wherever possible. This was a positive change that occurred during COVID.

Closure of Conference

The Chair declared the 107th State Annual Conference closed at 2.50pm.

Rob Webster OAM
Chairman

Date confirmed