

RSL News-George Town

Update on Solar Panels installation.

Background

The solar panel project was facilitated to enable the George Town RSL Sub Branch to obtain a return from power generated via solar panels. The funding of this project was via both the State & Federal Governments. The Federal contribution was via a “community grant” which in our case was administered through Ross Hart MP the Federal Member for Bass. The State Grant was through the Treasurer the Hon Peter Gutwein. The contribution from both areas was in the vicinity of \$7800.

The project is to be implemented in two stages.

Phase 1 – purchase of panels and installation.

Phase 2 – Purchase of 2 x 9.1 kw reverse cycle air conditioners and two circular fans to assist in distributing the air flow in the “well-being” area.

Current status.

The funding from the Federal Government has been received and the installation of the panels (some 20 odd) and inverter has occurred. The appropriate paperwork with Tas. Networking has occurred.

We eagerly await the remaining grant from the State Government so we can get Phase 2 underway especially with the warm weather we have been receiving of late.

We are extremely grateful to both the Federal and State Governments in providing the grants. The Federal Governments grant had a 50% contribution by the RSL Sub Branch. That 50% was met by the State Government contribution. Subsequently the total project was at nil cost to the RSL Sub Branch.

Tasmanian Electrical Services (Denis Williams) have been also supportive in picking up any associated costs related to permits etc. This has again been similarly appreciated. Without the support we receive from local commercial entities and our volunteers, our Sub Branch would like it had to exist.

Don Mackrill

President

George Town RSL Sub Branch



Items this issue:

What's happening at No 44.

- ◇ Solar Panel Update
- ◇ Tamar Valley Veterans Support Centre (TVVSC)
- ◇ Membership By-Law change
- ◇ Award and Presentation News



Membership Renewal Sub Branch membership fees are now due. We request that it be paid before the end of March 2019, if possible, please. The Sub Branch subs are unchanged at \$40.00. If you prefer to pay by EFT contact the Sub Branch for banking details. Please be sure to add your surname and the word membership to your remittance.

If you prefer to pay by cash or cheque, please drop into our office at No. 44 Macquarie Street, or post your payment to 'The Secretary', George Town RSL Sub Branch Inc, P.O. Box 105, George Town TAS 7253.

Please remember that as a Sub Branch member we rely on you to support the branch in both meeting attendances and fundraising functions. Since we no longer have a club to support us, we rely heavily on membership fees and fundraising so are constantly looking for volunteers to help with fundraising, so we ask that you consider doing some volunteer hours.

As the George Town RSL Sub Branch, we also work to preserve and maintain the memorials both here in George Town and Lefroy – all of this is done by volunteers.

RSL Membership New By-Law amendment

At the last RSL National Board meeting, held in November, the eligibility criteria for membership of the RSL was amended, and the RSL National By- Law 2 was amended as follows:

By-Law 2.3.1 (C) amended to read -

(C) The person is or was a member of the Australian Defence Force with a least one day's service (fulltime equivalent)".

Previously there was a qualifying period of six months this is no longer the case. The applicant need only have served one day in uniform to be eligible to be a member of the League.

Thanks from Ron & Carolyne Gerlitz who visited us on November 30th. We were delighted to have a visit from them and after a couple of hours spent meeting members and a couple of 'ales', they went on to the Yacht Club for a BBQ. Thanks to Phil Evans for sailing them across the Tamar the next morning, bikes and all in the little boat. We have received an email from them stating George Town RSL members— "Simply the Best" and a donation to the Sub Branch. The email is on display for all to read.

As President Don Mackrill is on leave of absence till end of February

Vice President Vince Davis will be Acting President during this time

We would like to wish Sue Mackrill a speedy recovery from her illness get well soon.

Summer Operating Hours -

Monday—Friday 10.00am—3.00pm

(For Weekend Visits—Please Phone:

Pres. Don Mackrill—0418 362 232

Vice Pres. Vince Davis—0414 316 527

Sec. Robyn Moody—0411 966 763)

RSL Awards, Bursaries and Presentation News

Each year the George Town RSL Sub Branch Inc make several awards and presentations. Acting President, Vince Davis and his wife Faye, attended a function at TS York Navy Cadets where they were made very welcome and an individual award was made to CF510991 CCPL Alexis Horner, Recognition of Community Service 2018 and AB John Glover, 2018 Cadet of the year. Two RSL Perpetual Shields were again presented by Vince who applauded all for their participation and efforts in events, such as ANZAC and Remembrance Days. The Cadets are now doing well with two new trainers and new members.

Vince and Faye also attended the RAAF Cadets presentation at Patterson Barracks, Launceston. The RSL Shield was presented. There are around 30 RAAF Air Cadets and it was encouraging to see excellent attendance for this event despite the wet conditions. Weather hampered the morning's planned drill and outdoor activity.

Bursary panel members Alex Dustan, Zanette Crowden and Audrey Evans attended presentation assemblies at our three George Town Schools. The RSL Bursary recipients were outstanding this year. The first school assembly presentation was at South George Town Primary School where Alex presented the RSL bursary to Grade 6 student Molly Evans. Senior staff at South chose the recipient. Students are considered over a two-year time span and those who consistently display the values and qualities of the RSL, show genuine interest in the RSL history and their role in the community. Candidates show interest and initiative in attending RSL community events. Staff then consider the recipient on merit.

The two Secondary school RSL Bursaries for a student from each of the other schools in the community were chosen following an interview process. Each participant is considered on merit following responses to specific questions in context, opinions and perspectives on local and global current affairs, and personal goals for the future. Alex and Zanette presented the RSL Bursary to Brianna Hinkley at the Star of the Sea awards evening held at the Parish Church. They also attended and presented a Bursary at Port Dalrymple presentation evening to Ella Maurer. Congratulations to all these worthy Bursary recipients. We look forward to hearing them speak at our ANZAC Day services in April. Photos will be in the next issue.

Tamar Valley Veteran Support Centre:

We hope many of you are aware of the recently opened TAMAR VALLEY VETERANS SUPPORT CENTRE (TVVSC) within the sub branch at 44 Macquarie street. As part of recent move to our new premises a room has been constructed to allow a private space for Advocacy and welfare appointments but also for drop-in advice or queries on support requirements. Greg Rush will be in at the centre from 1000hrs - 14.00hrs each Tuesdays. Greg is also available at other times to suit the veteran by appointment. He is more than happy to assist in claim lodgement or simply to help with questions or advice with regard DVA entitlements for veterans or their dependants. Greg can be contacted as below.

Greg Rush, Compensation Advocate
Ph 0401 174 601

Email gregrush59@gmail.com

Meetings:

George Town RSL Sub Branch Inc the next meeting is on 12th February 2019 at 6:30pm at 44 Macquarie Street George Town. All members are welcome and as this meeting is prior to AGM (following month) it would be a good meeting to attend and offer feedback and ideas going forward.

AGM Sunday 24th March 2019 at 11.30am

The Annual General Meeting of the George Town RSL Sub Branch Inc, will be held at 44 Macquarie Street, George Town on March 24th, 2019. Your attendance is encouraged. We will be seeking expressions of interest from individuals interested in being on the board of Management. We would like a diverse group of people representing all services or Community to consider nominating for the Board. Please contact the Secretary during opening hours 63822745.

STATE News items:

Community Garden at Botanical Gardens - Bee Keeping Course

News from **DVA Hobart**: We are currently looking for Expressions of Interest for anyone to attend a one-day Beekeeping Course at the Botanical Gardens.

Vietnam Veterans

Vietnam—Ribbons Car Stickers

We have recently received a minimal number of the above. We have also been advised that the VVAA have nil stock left as do RSL State Branch

So if you need a spare or update those on your vehicle it is suggested that you get in quick—only \$5.50—\$7.50 each—various sizes available.

Up Coming Social Events:

The next **Ladies Morning Tea** will be held at the Sub Branch on 14th February 2019. at 10:30 AM. We look forward to seeing you there.

Happy Hour will be held regularly twice a month we look forward to enjoying this time with other members and guests. Next to be held at the Sub Branch on Jan 25th between 4 and 6 pm.

Fundraising:

Most would be aware of the importance of fundraising for ongoing Veteran support, advocacy and operational needs of our Sub Branch. As in past years, Bunnings have assigned some dates for our Sub Branch to Barbeque at their store on the northern outlet. Dates have been set for 22nd Jan 9th Feb and 8th March. If there are any members who would like to help, half day or full day, at Feb and March dates please give Robyn a call at the RSL Sub Branch 63822745.

George Town Sub Branch Calendar Feb -March

Date	Day	Function	Venue	Time
Jan				
11th	Fri	Happy Hour	RSL Sub Branch	4.00pm
16th	Wed	Board Meeting	RSL Sub Branch	6.30pm
22nd	Tues	Bunnings Sausage Sizzle	Launceston	7am-5pm
25th	Fri	Happy Hour	RSL Sub Branch	4.00pm
Feb				
8th	Fri	Happy Hour	RSL Sub Branch	4.00pm
9th	Sat	Bunnings Sausage Sizzle	Launceston	7am-5pm
12th	Tues	Sub Branch Meeting	RSL Sub Branch	6.30pm
14th	Thurs	Ladies Morning Tea	RSL Sub Branch	10.30am
20th	Wed	Board Meeting	RSL Sub Branch	6.30pm
22nd	Fri	Happy Hour	RSL Sub Branch	4.00pm
Mar				
8th	Fri	Bunnings Sausage Sizzle	Launceston	7am-5pm
8th	Fri	Happy Hour	RSL Sub Branch	4.00pm
14th	Thurs	Ladies Morning Tea	RSL Sub Branch	10.30am
20th	Wed	Board Meeting	RSL Sub Branch	6.30pm
22nd	Fri	Happy Hour	RSL Sub Branch	4.00pm
24th	Sun	A.G.M.	RSL Sub Branch	11.30am