



MEDIA RELEASE

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95th RSL State Congress to focus on younger leadership

The 95th RSL State Congress will focus on younger leadership and positive change when over 400 delegates, leaders and guests from around Queensland meet in Townsville later this month.

The RSL State Congress is the annual supreme policy-making forum of the League in Queensland, where views of both current and ex-service personnel at all levels are debated.

Along with welfare, commemoration and community; younger leadership features prominently within the RSL's commitments as a topic of focus to be discussed at this year's State Congress to be held June 19 and 20 at Jupiters Townsville.

Several RSL sub branch presidents representing younger leadership within the League's grassroots communities will be in attendance this year, keen to share their ideas on how the RSL can move forward with the times.

RSL (Queensland Branch) State President Doug Formby said the Futures Committee, formed at last year's State Congress, would also report back to delegates after 12 months of researching how the League can better position itself for positive change.

"As an organisation with an ageing membership, and a country with an ageing population, we must endeavour to include our younger members in efforts to ensure the RSL remains relevant now and in the future," Mr Formby said.

Younger RSL sub branch presidents, including Miles Wootten (Oakey) and Ben O'Donnell (Theodore), will address the State Congress and share their thoughts on how the RSL can better engage with the modern men and women of today's Australian Defence Force.

State Congress delegates will also debate how to increase membership of the RSL among serving men and women; engagement of the community, particularly youth; the ongoing welfare needs of veterans; and how the League can better support Australian Defence Force personnel overseas.

Mr Formby said the State Congress primarily allowed the RSL's 254 sub branches to put forward various motions on issues ranging from veterans' lifestyle to defence.

"The RSL encourages sub branches to think seriously about forming and debating motions that ensure veterans' entitlements are put forward by the League and brought to the attention of appropriate policy-making bodies," he said.

"Recent budget announcements made by the Veterans' Affairs Minister on issues which the RSL lobbied Government show how important it is for members to discuss key topics at State Congress."

The RSL State Congress will commence on Friday, June 18 with an official opening ceremony and wreath laying at ANZAC Park, followed by a welcome from Mr Formby.

Annual elections will be held for all the key executive positions of the RSL in Queensland. Observers are welcome to attend the RSL State Congress, however only RSL delegates are entitled to speak and cast votes.