



RSL
Tasmania



Dear RSL Tasmania Members,

At the last Congress, our State President spoke to all the Sub-Branch Presidents about what every Sub-Branch was required to do under the Charter to operate as an RSL.

Over the last eight months, the Regional Directors and State Branch have worked with Sub-Branches to ensure we conform to what our forefathers wanted the RSL to be. This is an ongoing process, and both the Board and State Branch understand this process will take at least 12 months to complete.

We have a responsibility to ensure Sub-Branches do not close through poor management or a lack of governance. This is a significant driver in ensuring that we are all compliant and closures such as the Glenorchy Sub-Branch never happen again.

Freedom of speech is something we have all defended in the past. Many service personnel have made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms. Sadly, some Sub-Branch individuals have taken to closed Facebook sites calling State Branch 'scum' and stating that the Board and State Branch are trying to close them down. Ladies and Gentlemen, neither the Board nor the State Branch want any Sub-Branch to close. Every effort is being made for this not to happen, but we must all accept what the RSL is for; it is for the good and benefit of Veterans and their families. That is why we exist, and to exist, we must conform to the Constitution, be that in the makeup of Committee Members, representation of Sub-Branches at State Congress, or what services we provide to Veterans.

Today, I received a report that a Sub-Branch Member has been verbally threatened with the burning of their house if their local RSL is closed. We must call this behaviour out as wholly unacceptable. It severely tarnishes the reputation of the RSL and the Sub-Branches' it involves. RSL Tasmania will not tolerate bullying behaviour of any kind. Our Members and their Guests should feel safe and welcome in any RSL knowing our foundations and principles have been built upon service, honour, and respect. If any Member of an RSL is proven to be involved in this sort of behaviour, they will be removed from RSL Tasmania for life.

I am sorry to be sending you all this letter, and I hope to have your support in stamping out this kind of reprehensible behaviour.

Kind regards,

John Hardy

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Co-signed by Barry Quinn

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