



Presidents Report

October 2023 General Meeting

Membership

Number of Non-League Members - 10

Service Members – 211

Life Subscribers - 509

Life Members – 5

Special Status – 15

Ironically this weekend marks 12 months in the role as the Cairns RSL Sub Branch President. It has been a busy and fulfilling 12 months. We have overcome many challenges and have achieved our objectives for the Veteran Community.

Building Works

- The 39 kw Solar installation to the Sub Branch is now complete and we are starting to see very positive results. Without the RSLQLD Grant the installation wouldn't have been possible. Monitoring of the solar output will see the Sub Branch output back to the grid significantly more than usage resulting in another income stream from the paid solar credits.
- The Cairns RSL Club has requested the replacement of the air conditioning units in the Catalina Room. During the quote process, it was discovered that replacing the units would require extensive work due to Asbestos. A grant has now been submitted to assist with the major works that will be required to replace the air conditioning units and allow the club to upgrade the Catalina Room. A QLD Remembrance Grant has been submitted for \$116k to have the Asbestos removed from the Catalina Room. This also includes painting, new ceiling, waste removal, and electrical replacement.
- Bird proofing and cleaning of the building roof has been completed and is making a big difference to the roof maintenance and damage being done by the Birds to the roof.
- The egress doors have been replaced in the Gaming Room area of the club.
- The emergency lighting in the Sub-Branch Offices and the Museum failed the emergency testing. J&R Refrigeration will be completing the works in the coming weeks.
- New signage will be installed at the front of the RSL Club to assist members with the location of the Sub-Branch and also to advertise and encourage more visitors to the museum.
- The 40 mm Bofor gun at the Cenotaph fell forward in June. Crossy's Crane Hire assisted at no charge and put the gun back in place. Council has now bolted the gun to the stand.
- The Sub-Branch office is working with the council to have the missing letters on the Cenotaph replaced.
- Roof repairs in the Club Sports Bar area and in the storage room on the first floor of the Club.

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Events

The following Events have been held successfully over the last 12 months.

- International Women's Day High Tea – This event saw the largest number of attendees that the Sub-Branch has seen.
- Anzac Day – Offered Veterans the opportunity to march into the Dawn Service and offered designated seating to Veterans. Another huge turnout from the public with our Vietnam veterans taking the lead in the parade.
- Monthly Morning Tea's
- Monthly Breakfast
- Monthly Walk and Talk – Dry Session only
- PKPM 75th anniversary Plaque Unveiling – Thank you to Cairns Regional Council, Hanby Welding for their assistance and for our peacekeeper/maker veterans including Federal police who attended.
- Vietnam Veterans Day Vigil for Corp John William Norris
- PKPM Annual Event with just under 100 attendees of various generations
- Vietnam Veterans Day with another large turnout, Thank you Kel Ryan and Peter Sibree for their contribution.
- Christmas in July was a sold-out event in the Catalina room
- Mental Health Week Breakfast, an oversubscribed attendance
- Veterans' Health Week Golf Day
- Veterans' Health Week Wellness Challenge
- Thank you for your Service Gala Dinner
- Remembrance Day
- Time to Remember Morning Tea
- Morning Melodies
- New Years Eve Party in the Catalina Room
- Youth Events

I have also attended a number of events representing the Cairns RSL Sub-Branch, as well as being the delegate for the Sub-Branch and attending the FND Council meeting.

Organisational Policies

It was discovered that several of the Organisational Policies required reviewing. Over the last few months Gillian and Neil have worked on updating the policies, and a new system is now in place to ensure policies are reviewed yearly as required.

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Board Governance Training

The Board attended Governance Training in July that was run by RSL Queensland, this was an invaluable two-day training course.

Strategic Plan

The Cairns RSL Sub-Branch Strategic Plan is up for review and in the coming weeks the board and staff in consultation with the membership will be working to provide a new strategic plan for the coming 3 years. I look forward to hearing from the membership on the direction and ideas they have for the Sub-Branch.

To Conclude, the past year has been busy for our Sub-Branch. I am proud of our achievements and am confident that we will continue to thrive in the coming year. I would like Thank you all for your support and commitment, and I look forward to working together to further the success of our Sub

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