



Nathan Shingles - Bio

PRESIDENT

Nathan Shingles proudly served in the Royal Australian Navy, where he gained extensive operational experience both at sea and ashore. He deployed in HMA Ships TORRENS, WESTRALIA, BUNBURY, GLADSTONE and WEWAK, undertaking a diverse range of duties across Australia's region and beyond. One of the defining moments of his naval career was serving as a crewman on the damage control team during the catastrophic 1998 fire aboard HMAS WESTRALIA. It was a moment that tested resilience, leadership, and teamwork under extreme pressure — qualities that continue to shape Nathan's approach to leadership today. His operational deployments included missions to the Heard and McDonald Islands under Operations Stanhope and Dirk, targeting illegal fishing in the Australian Antarctic zone, and he took part in critical national security roles through Border Protection operations. He served in Bougainville as part of the Peace Monitoring Group in 2001, participated in the ANZAC Exchange with the Royal New Zealand Navy, and worked as part of the Maritime Commander's staff for Rear Admiral Geoff Smith and Rear Admiral Raydon Gates AO, CSM.

Following his Navy service, Nathan transitioned successfully into the business sector, establishing and operating one of Cairns' leading independent real estate agencies. For over 17 years, he has built a reputation as a trusted business owner and leading real estate agent, known for his integrity, strategic thinking, and commitment to delivering outstanding results for clients. His commercial success has given him strong skills in financial management, governance, and business development — all of which he brings to his role as President of the Cairns RSL Sub Branch.

Encouraged by Sub Branch members, Nathan nominated for President after serving as a Board Director, where he was actively involved in meetings, represented the Sub Branch at events, served as MC for key occasions, and worked to resolve complex inherited issues such as the Sub Branch loan. He has consistently demonstrated a commitment to seeing through his responsibilities, even during challenging times.

As President, Nathan's focus has been on veteran welfare, member engagement, and community involvement. Under his leadership, the Sub Branch has strengthened its relationships with HMAS Cairns and the 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment, introduced the ANZAC Day march into the dawn service, expanded commemorative services, and produced the Vietnam Veterans Documentary in 2024. He has been instrumental in growing member events, supporting younger veterans, and driving initiatives such as the Veteran Christmas Hamper program and the continuation of the Cairns Veteran Business Network.

Nathan's key priorities as President are:

- Supporting all veterans and their needs without compromising existing services;
- Being available and accessible to members whenever required;
- Championing engagement with younger veterans to secure the future of the RSL;
- Maintaining and upholding good governance practices within the Sub Branch.

Nathan remains deeply passionate about serving the veteran community. His blend of military, business, and community leadership ensures the Cairns RSL Sub Branch remains strong, viable, and welcoming for veterans of all ages. In his spare time, Nathan enjoys spending time with his wife and children, getting out on the water, and supporting local community events.