



RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Magnetic Island Sub-Branch Inc

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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DATE/TIME: 3pm Sunday 14 May 2017

HELD AT: Memorial Hall, 31 Hayles Avenue, Arcadia

1. **Opening and Welcome**

The President, Allan MacKenzie, declared the meeting opened at 3.05pm and welcomed all attendees, in particular guests Ewan Cameron and Bill Whitburn.

2. **The Ode** was recited by the President.

3. **Attendance**

Martyn Forsberg, Pat Trewin, Anton Prinsloo, Jim Davis, Trish Cossey, Jan Chapman, Ian Ruscoe, Pam Barlow, Ewan Cameron, Bill Whitburn, Allan MacKenzie, Peter Johns, Margaret Johns, Geoff Barlow
Apologies were received from Lyn Evans, Chris Evans, Matthew Evans, Dave Dawson and Bill Perry.

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted.

MOVED: Pat Trewin **SECONDED:** Geoff Barlow **CARRIED**

4. **Conflicts of Interest**

The President requested that any person who had a potential conflict of interest should make it known. Bill Whitburn advised that as well as being District President, he was President of Townsville RSL Sub-Branch.

5. **Minutes of AGM 17 May 2016**

The minutes of the 2016 AGM have been available for 12 months and were deemed to have been read.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the AGM of 17 May 2016 be accepted as a true and correct record.

MOVED: Pat Trewin **SECONDED** Geoff Barlow **CARRIED**

6. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes of 17 May 2016.

7. **President's Report – Allan MacKenzie**

Good afternoon and welcome to our Sub-Branch AGM for 2017. I would particularly like to welcome Mr Bill Whitburn OAM, the President of RSL North Queensland District and Ewan Cameron, Vice-President of our State RSL.

The past year has been reasonably successful for our RSL. Costs of running the Sub-Branch are heavy, particularly in relation to power and insurance. However I am sure this is nothing new to other organisations in the area. Our financial situation is fairly satisfactory, as our Treasurer will advise you shortly.

During the latter part of 2016 our then-President Greg Plant resigned and let the island at short notice. No explanation was given to the RSL Sub-Branch. As a result I was elected President by the committee to carry on until the present AGM.

During April we had the pleasure of hosting a delegation of veterans and dignitaries from Timor-Leste. The visit was short but successful.

Also during December we celebrated the 100th birthday of Colin Fulford, a World War ii veteran and supporter of the RSL. We thank North Queensland District for their assistance with these celebrations.

Our principal reason of existence, the welfare and care of our veterans, was carried out to the best of our ability and our special thanks go to our Welfare Officer, Geoff Barlow, for his untiring efforts in this area.

Our good relationship with the local community continues. Our RSL Hall is frequently hired as a venue for local activities. To some extent the RSL Hall could be considered as a community hall.

The visitors to our Friday and Sunday evenings are down in numbers but we are looking forward to an increase as the weather improves and it gets colder down south.

The success of our Magnetic Island RSL rests to a large extent on our small group of stalwart volunteers without whom the RSL would cease to exist. I hereby record the Committee's appreciation of their efforts. Also our small group of Citizens Auxiliary from time to time pull miracles out of a hat and help us avoid a disaster. A special thanks goes to them.

The current membership of the Sub-Branch is 37 Service Members and some 73 Social Members.

We will be electing a new President at this meeting. I am not re-nominating as the universe is telling me that at 84 my use-by-date is fast approaching. However I express my appreciation to the Committee for their tolerance and good humour during the period I was President.

In conclusion I would imagine that any member of our RSL organisation must be thinking of the future of the RSL in Australia. Our State Directors in particular must be mulling over an old and continuing problem, ie how do we get younger servicemen and veterans to join the RSL? One wonders what will happen to our regional areas where most of the sub-branches are manned by older veterans. What happens when they pass on?

We of the RSL nationally do live in interesting times.

Thank you.

Allan MacKenzie, President

MOTION: That the President's Report be accepted.

MOVED: Allan MacKenzie **SECONDED:** Pam Barlow **CARRIED**

8. Treasurer's Report – Anton Prinsloo

Financial Matters of Significance

The Magnetic Island RSL needs to advise that the Accountant appointed at the previous AGM abandoned the appointment and has not involved in the 2016 Financial Review.

The MI RSL Board selected Crowe Horwath to prepare the 2016 review of MI RSL Records. As one of its first tasks Crowe Horwath assisted with switching ATO representation from Darrigan Accounting to the current MI RSL Treasurer.

Crowe Horwath further assisted in deregistering the Magnetic Island RSL for GST, simplifying its financial processes as well as removing the need to submit BAS statements.

In Review

The Magnetic Island RSL finished 2016 with net assets of \$358,676 consisting of depreciated land, building, equipment and inventory to the value of \$ 264,544 plus current assets of \$91,126.

The Crowe Horwath Report raised concern regarding diminishing income, higher expenditure and therefore lower profitability, declaring a MI RSL deficit of \$9,310.

It must be noted that the Magnetic Island RSL managed through strong volunteering effort to increase its cash at bank and cash equivalents from \$83,010 (2015) to \$91,646 (2016).

The reported deficit is brought about by the accounting practice of recording depreciation (\$17,822) as an actual expense. If depreciation is removed from the equation the MI RSL would show a net profit of \$8,512.

MI RSL's increase in expenses needs to be seen within the context of implementing RSL Objects. There certainly has been an unfavourable rise in expenses for accounting fees, electricity and Insurance, factors which the MI RSL continually seeks to reduce. Our other major area of expense, Grounds and Building Maintenance, remained steady.

Favourable expenditure, that of Welfare, Remembrance and Youth Development, rose to \$4,365 (2016), up markedly from \$182 (2015). The MI RSL is rightly proud of this achievement. Welfare Expenses (the cost of delivering welfare) increased from \$1,142 (2015) to \$2,674.39 (2016). Actual Income certainly has worryingly reported down from \$87,394 (2015) to \$70,924 (2016), driven largely by a marked slowdown in bar sales, a drop in fundraising income, hall donations and subscriptions. This may be due to a tightening state of the economy and may largely be beyond our control, but should be very carefully considered in the 2017 FY planning and budgeting cycle.

This concludes the Treasurer's report.
Anton Prinsloo, Treasurer

The Treasurer presented the Auditor/Reviewer's Report and Annual Financial Statement.

MOTION: That the Treasurer's Report and the Audited Annual Financial Statement be accepted as a true record.

MOVED: Anton Prinsloo **SECONDED** Geoff Barlow **CARRIED**

9. Charitable Activities Report – Pat Trewin

Report on Objects of the Association

As we would hopefully all be aware, the Objects of the RSL are displayed on our wall. Essentially we aim to support veterans and their dependants, as well as serving members and community members who need assistance, commemorate those who have suffered and died for Australia, provide opportunities for mateship and encourage patriotism for our nation and support for our ADF.

How well we met those objects during 2016 and to date will be outlined here.

ACNC. Firstly, the Sub-Branch is a registered charity – we are required to register with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) and submit an annual return detailing what we have done, including how much of our finances have been spent on charity work. This return is currently being prepared and will be submitted shortly. North Queensland District submits a report on behalf of participating sub-branches, but sub-branch reporting online is also required. ACNC requires reporting by calendar year, but gives us some 6 months to submit a report, so our late AGM still allows us to comply.

Our 'Staff'. ACNC also asks about our staffing. Our Sub-Branch has one part-time paid worker doing approximately 6 hours per week, and 20 regular volunteers who provide ongoing and excellent service to the Sub-Branch. Following the recent resignation of our Office Administrator, we are currently making enquiries to source a suitable replacement, as this person does a great deal to lighten the load of our Board of Directors. There are also a number of community members who provide volunteer services for ANZAC Day, but these people, valuable as they are, are not included in the ACNC return. It would be wonderful indeed if we had so many volunteers providing assistance throughout the year!

Volunteer Hours. One of the requirements for a registered charity is to document the hours spent on Sub-Branch work by our volunteers, as well as the kilometres travelled. So much of what we do would otherwise

go unrecognised, so at each Board Meeting we document our activities with an Activity Log. The statistics for 2016, to be reported to ACNC, are as follows:

Activity Types	Activity Codes	Sum of Hours	Sum of km Travelled	No of People
Welfare & Pension Activities	1 Home visits	13	103	1
	4 Pension applications/reviews	37.5	112	2
	5 Funerals	6	0	1
	8 Day Centre/Men's Shed	143.5	673	1
	9 Transport assistance	82	223	1
	11 Other	22.5	25	2
Commemorative & Patriotic Activities	21 ANZAC Day	421.5	668	34
	22 Remembrance Day	41.5	85	4
	24 Memorial construction/maintenance	3	0	1
	25 Museum/library/memorabilia	34.25	63	2
	26 Poppy/badge sales	2	0	1
	27 School activities	19.75	43	4
	28 Assisting unit associations & other ESOs	2	12	1
	29 Other	4	32	2
Support for Sub-Branch and the Community	41 Sub-Branch affairs	887.25	1,536	15
	42 Newsletters	14.25	0	2
	43 Attending training and forums	98	2,809	1
	44 Organising functions	348.25	262	11
	45 Other	351.5	1012	11
	Grand Total		2,531.75	7,658

If you are not already an active volunteer, there are many, many ways you could be assisting us. As well as the more obvious days of commemoration, we have volunteers doing gardening, cleaning, laundering, repair work and building maintenance, office work, maintaining our library and memorabilia collection, ordering stock, running the bar, setting up and packing up the facility on our opening nights, counting and banking monies, maintaining correspondence, keeping track of our finances and paying bills, attending meetings at District and State, writing reports, liaising with community and other RSL organisations, purchasing equipment, attending local and community meetings, attending training, organizing functions, providing welfare services, meeting a variety of legal requirements, and generally improving the operation of our Sub-Branch. And there are only 20 of us doing all these tasks – we could certainly use more help, if you have some time available.

Commemoration. As usual during 2016, we conducted a service for Remembrance Day and more recently for ANZAC Day. The support of the ADF and the local community for these events is exceptional. Last year 3CSSB assisted us for Remembrance Day and this year 10FSB and 35 Water Transport Squadron provided the uniformed presence for ANZAC Day, including providing the guest speaker, the parade commander and the catafalque party, as well as conducting a firing of blank volleys from the landing craft in Alma Bay prior to the service, reminiscent of the sounds which must have been such an integral part of the original ANZAC landing. As usual, many attendees accepted our invitation to lay a book for the local school, rather than a wreath, and we were proud to pass onto the school 25 books and three book vouchers for their School Library.

Mateship. Because of the size of our Island population, it is not practical for the Sub-Branch to be open for more than the current two nights per week. However, those who attend our Friday Markets and our Sunday Roast have a very enjoyable time, with good inexpensive meals and great camaraderie, and indeed many of them are regular patrons. In addition, from this time of year onwards, we have a lot of visitors from the south who come to enjoy our warmer winter climate and our excellent hospitality. There is a real sense of mateship at the RSL on these nights, as friends reunite and have a meal, and we also have a number of veterans who regularly attend the RSL for meals and friendship. Our Memorial Hall is also used regularly as a community hall, by various groups, in particular our Magnetic Island U3A and the Magnetic Island

Residents and Ratepayers Association. Groups such as this meet up with friends here, and we are pleased to be able to facilitate these opportunities for mateship.

WVNA. In 2015 our Sub-Branch was instrumental in setting up a website for the Women's Veterans Network Australia, which was founded here in Townsville and now has 22 active groups around the nation. We continue to support this organisation with a donation of up to \$200 per year to help them meet their costs.

Cadet Support. We have been saddened recently to see the demise of the cadet unit on Magnetic Island, following the posting of their OIC, police officer Adam Brown. Support continues to be offered by Townsville-based TS CORAL SEA, but it seems that, since their annual dinner last November, the group has gone into decline.

Welfare. The primary reason the RSL was formed was to provide support for veterans who returned from World War I and this has continued since that time through wars such as World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and wars of the Middle East, as well as peacekeeping forces, in particular with the United Nations. Our Sub-Branch is proud to continue that tradition, and seeks always to identify any veterans or current serving members, and their families, who may need assistance, be it with advice, advocacy, referrals to appropriate authorities, or simply assistance with maintaining their standard of living. We currently provide services such as gardening and pool cleaning to several of those who can no longer manage such tasks. There is always a willing listener in our wonderful Welfare Officer, Geoff Barlow, and also Trevor Mullins from Townsville who assists when needed, and both will go the extra mile for our veterans, including organisation of support services. Geoff will present his Welfare Report shortly and detail what has been happening since the last AGM.

Special Events. One of the most significant events in our year was the recognition in December last year of the 100th birthday of former Sapper Colin Fulford, a World War II veteran. Many of those here today also attended that event, so it won't be detailed here; suffice it to say that it was a fitting recognition of a century of life for a wonderful man who served his nation well, and once again we congratulate Colin. He again provided The Ode at our recent ANZAC Day service and, though his physical prowess may be diminishing, his voice was as strong and clear as always; it's an honour have him as part of our ceremony. We also recognise the contribution of funding by the North Queensland District to enable us to pay fitting tribute to Colin on his birthday.

We also recently hosted a visit by a delegation from Timor-Leste who were in Australia for ANZAC Day and were keen to see how a Sub-Branch operates and supports veterans, with a view to establishing something similar in their own country. Indeed there were four veterans from Timor-Leste in the party, including one female veteran, and we were very privileged to host them for a morning tea.

Veterans Health Week was again part of our program in October last year, with a morning tea for veterans and community elders here in the Memorial Hall, together with a concert by a local choir, culminating with a sing-along of old songs – most enjoyable and yet another opportunity for community engagement and mateship, organised by our Welfare Officer, Geoff.

In October last year, Veterans off the Streets Association, under the direction of the amazing Floss Foster, held an event in Townsville to draw attention to homelessness of veterans. Geoff and I were pleased to attend the day session of the VOTSA Sleepout and to promote the services of our Sub-Branch to the people of Townsville.

In December we were pleased to sponsor three prizes for the graduating class of Magnetic Island State School, two for Mathematics in remembrance of our former Committee Member John Becker, and another for peer support – because this is the RSL's charter - we support others.

This concludes the Report on the Objects of the RSL.

Pat Trewin, Secretary

MOTION: That the Report on Objects of the Association be accepted.

MOVED: Pat Trewin **SECONDED:** Anton Prinsloo **CARRIED**

Report on Welfare & Commemorative Activities – Geoff Barlow

Over the twelve months reporting period I have completed 765 hours of RSL volunteer time and 3833 km of travelling. This includes a trip to Cairns.

In regard to my September report, as far as I am aware the RSL has not yet notified all health organisations of the availability of health or support services through the Townsville area; unless of course this is what the Veteran's Hub is all about. I was under the impression that this information would go out to all sub-branch ESOs and not to the veteran community at large as a phone app. If the latter is the case, then it would assume that all veterans, including those in deliberate isolation/hibernation, would have a mobile phone, let alone how to use it.

DVA Health Week. This was again a complete success, with the community being involved with morning tea and a small concert. Grant money for DVA Health Week has been spent and acquitted. A certificate of Appreciation was sent by DVA .

Colin Fulford's 100th. Colin's birthday was a huge success, even if I do say so myself. Any hiccups were very quickly covered by our excellent assistants who worked tirelessly and efficiently. Letters of commendation were sent to Bella and Molly for their generosity in giving of their time and expertise, a sense of responsibility which is not easily found in today's youth.

I forwarded a note to the Minister Dan Tehan re the outcome of the celebrations. He responded with a request for some photos and an apology for not being able to make it. Photos have been sent with a further one of Alma Bay. The Minister and his immediate family are regular visitors to Magnetic Island and the RSL in particular.

An application for \$1,000.00 was submitted to NQ District to assist with the birthday celebrations, and was approved. This has been acquitted and an acknowledgement, in the form of the plaque you see on the wall, was purchased and installed. Even though the District support was acknowledged on the day, I would like to reiterate our thanks for the assistance. The celebration would not have been such a success without their support.

Pensions and Advocacy. I have continued being mentored as an advocate at Quinn's Post in Townsville, and it is interesting that I find out more about veterans on Magnetic Island than I do from the local source. It would seem that there are a number of veterans on Magnetic Island about which we know naught. There is also among the veteran community a great dearth of knowledge of the Department of Veterans Affairs and what it does and can do. This is an issue we must take up and encourage those veterans to consider membership.

I recently completed a course as an Advocate Level 2 in Cairns, but will still need the help and advice from my mentor at Quinn's Post Townsville.

Training. Because of the imminent demise of the TIP training courses, I have nominated, and been accepted, for an Advocate's course Level 1 to be managed by ATDP (Advocacy Training and Development Programme), though I am unimpressed with the administration of the programme. I don't hold out much hope of continuing this course, mainly because of my current administrative difficulties. Though be aware that this ADTP training will become the norm, and we will be looking for volunteers to take up the duties of Welfare Officers and Advocates.

Veteran Help. Home gardening help for veterans has been arranged and is working well. Older veterans find it difficult to ask for help, and it is up to us to gently mention assistance when we know someone in need. When a veteran or member needs help, we will be there.

I must also take this opportunity to acknowledge the compassion shown by Fantasea Magnetic in providing a discount on the cost of carriage of one of our veteran's vehicle and trailer; the trailer being used to transport his mobility scooter. Fantasea has agreed to forego the cost of the trailer and allow vehicle and trailer to be transported for the Island residents cost of the vehicle only.

ANZAC Day 2017. As well as attending on such occasions I am happy to report that I also take the photos, some of which appear in the Community News and own RSL Newsletter and web page. This I see as being an advantage to us as it keeps the community in touch with the RSL and our membership in touch with the community.

Welfare and Advocacy. I have found that being an Advocate and Welfare Officer fulfilling and it has been an opportunity to meet with people who are like-minded and sometimes in extreme need of assistance. You have the resources at hand and are in a position to help without being judgmental. I would encourage any member to consider these positions.

Geoff Barlow, Welfare Officer

MOTION: That the Welfare Report be accepted

MOVED: Geoff Barlow **SECONDED** Jim Davis **CARRIED**

List of Donations

The Treasurer reported that the following donations were made during 2016:

NTS MAGNETIC ISLAND/CORAL SEA	\$2,000.00
Pozieres brick	\$50.00
Sickies for Seth	\$250.00
Women's Veterans Network Australia	\$794.67
Youth Development – Magnetic Island State School	\$300.00
TOTAL	\$3,394.67

10. Other Reports

Secretary's Report – Pat Trewin

As Secretary I see the role as a conduit for information to all sections of the organisation and wider, and I have done my best this year to meet that need. The Secretary is responsible for calling meetings, taking minutes at meetings, writing and answering correspondence and emails, dealing with phone enquiries and liaising with outside agencies, especially District. In addition, compliance with legislation, both external and the RSL's requirements, is an ongoing task. As well as our responsibilities to the RSL, we are responsible to the Office of Fair Trading, The Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission, the Office of Liquor, Gambling and Racing, Townsville City Council for things such as food handing and markets, as well as a range of issues for health and safety, and maintenance. I even ended up organizing termite treatment this year! There's a lot that the Secretary has to do to help keep the organisation functioning, as indeed is the case for every position on the Board.

We are very fortunate that we have a core group of volunteers who really put a great effort in, but sometimes there are just not enough of us to go around, particularly when we factor in people's absences from the Island, whether for holiday, family, health or other reasons. So we are definitely in need of some new regular helpers, both on the Board or in the CA – and younger people than us wouldn't hurt either!

We are very much into continuous improvement, as seen, for example, by our updating of the PA system and improvements to fire exits, as well as a significant refurbishment of our gardens, including removal of aging palm trees, and improvements to our office storage and workspaces.

Anton has also upgraded our computers this year – he'd be in a better position to tell you what has been done, but certainly the reliability and functionality of the systems has improved. We have also identified the need to rationalise our storage of archived documents and will be addressing that in the near future. Whether we digitise everything has yet to be decided, but I have a fondness for old historical files in hard copy so we'll see how we go.

I am very grateful to Chris and Lyn who have re-organised the storerooms which were becoming very cluttered, and moved the large shelving to the container, where it is put to good use. The smaller shelving has been moved to the second store-room which is now largely for cleaning materials and the like, and the

main store has become a wonderful clean and tidy depository for all our memorabilia, which is now easily accessible, instead of being stored in large plastic tubs.

On the memorabilia, the task continues. Much of it has now been documented in accordance with museum practices, but I will still have more work to do in the coming months to finish the task. And of course, we are still receiving donations from time to time, which is wonderful. You will see a range of our items on display in our cabinet, including a number of items that have been lent for the display. It is part of the objects of our RSL, to pay homage to those who went before us, and it is a very enjoyable task to research relevant information to add to the enjoyment of the displays.

We are always pleased to have people hire our Hall – we think of it as a Community Hall and our hirers are always very respectful of the premises. Currently we have regular hiring by U3A for classes and for choir practice, line-dancing, and meetings of MIRRA. Council also uses our hall from time to time, as do other groups from Townsville, and local community organisations such as MICDA. This hall hire not only gives a small boost to the RSL coffers, but it also assists our Island community. We'd love to have more people use our facility.

I would like to make a small mention too of our commemorative events, Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day. The Secretary is heavily involved in organizing and co-ordinating these events, and it is a lot of work, but the commitment and co-operation of our RSL people and our community, as well as the outside organisations including our ADF, is phenomenal and very heart-warming. And the services themselves are very moving and a fitting tribute to those who went before us. I am always very proud of the commemorations of the Magnetic Island RSL Sub-Branch.

As I step down from the position of Secretary, I would like to pay tribute to some people who have made a significant contribution to the Sub-Branch. Allan stepped in wonderfully well when President Greg Plant resigned unexpectedly and I thank him for his leadership and for representing us as our delegate. I could not have managed this year without the assistance of Anton who has continued with several of the tasks he used to do as Secretary, which has made my job considerably easier; he is always one to put his hand up, so we must be careful he doesn't burn out any time soon! I have touched on Chris's work, not only as Membership Officer, but on his initiative to get things done with a minimum of fuss, and he is the reason our gardens look so good. He is ably assisted by Marty who carries a huge load of the volunteer work with gardening, bar duty, and always being available if someone needs a hand, including helping with welfare where appropriate. Chris, Lyn and Marty are the main force in setting up and clearing away each night we are open, and together with Jenny and her kitchen staff, they enable us to keep going. Chris and Lyn are a wonderful team to keep our membership records going and Lyn also runs the RSL laundry – she washes and irons our tablecloths every week, and Jenny cleans the Hall. Chris and Lyn are always here to welcome guests and they know almost everyone by name! Our bar staff are dedicated and reliable and it's due to them that we are able to have a continuous income from bar sales. It goes without saying that Geoff Barlow continues to do a wonderful job as Welfare Officer – Geoff first joined the RSL in 1996, became President in 1997 and has been on our committee/board continuously since 2003; our welfare services would long ago have died without his commitment. Finally I must mention our last Life Member who lives on the Island now that Dirk has moved to the Sunshine Coast – Jim Davis. As you will mostly all know, last year Jim finished writing a book about the history of our Sub-Branch, and a fine work it is. There are still copies available if you would like to part with \$35 – just see me later! But to Jim I say thanks for the depth of knowledge and experience that he has and which he is always willing to share. He really is a treasure.

If I haven't mentioned your name, please forgive me. I know there are many others who work tirelessly for the RSL, and we value everything that you do. And sometimes you may not be publicly recognised for your efforts, but be sure that we appreciate what you do to keep this important organisation going. Thank you all.

Pat Trewin, Secretary

MOTION: That the Secretary's Report be accepted.

MOVED: Pat Trewin **SECONDED:** Allan MacKenzie **CARRIED**

Membership Report – Pat Trewin on behalf of Chris Evans

Membership numbers for Magnetic Island RSL Sub-Branch continue to be in a reasonably healthy state for such a small Sub-Branch. Since last year's AGM, one of our members, Don Kinsey, passed away, one member, Adam Brown, transferred to another Sub-Branch, and five other members have simply let their membership lapse, despite receiving reminders. Two, Mick Huggon and Cain Woods, have left the island.

We welcome a new member, Geoff Tanner, and Harry Schaefer, who rejoined this year after letting his membership lapse in 2016.

Current financial Service Members - 37

This includes 3 Life Members, 13 Life Subscribers and 21 Service Members.

Our Non-League Membership (which includes 13 Citizens Auxiliary and 60 Social Members) stands at 73. We expect this number to increase slightly with the influx of our annual visitors during winter months.

Chris Evans, Membership Officer

MOTION: That the Membership Report be accepted.

MOVED: Pat Trewin **SECONDED:** Anton Prinsloo **CARRIED**

Citizen's Auxiliary Report - Jan Chapman

The Magnetic Island RSL Citizens Auxiliary was established in 2003 for people who were not eligible for membership of the League but wanted to support veterans and their local Sub-Branch. The Citizens Auxiliary was established to replace the former Women's Auxiliary, which folded in 2001. Membership of the Women's Auxiliary was restricted to the wives and families of former veterans. The Magnetic Island RSL Women's Auxiliary was established in 1958 and was the main fundraising arm of the Sub-Branch during its existence. They provided a major contribution for funding the building of the Memorial Hall and its subsequent maintenance as well as contributing to the RSL's welfare program and social and commemorative activities.

The current Magnetic Island RSL Sub-Branch Citizens Auxiliary (CA), which consists of only 13 members, provides support to the Sub-Branch by way of its social and fundraising and commemorative activities. The Auxiliary is also involved in the cleaning and maintenance of the buildings and its contents and surrounds. The Citizens Auxiliary recently held its Annual General Meeting and the same Office Bearers were re-elected: They are:

President:	Jan Chapman
Vice President:	Jenny Safe
Secretary:	Lyn Evans
Committee Member:	Martyn Forsberg

Since the previous Annual General Meeting of the Magnetic Island RSL Sub-Branch, the Citizens Auxiliary has provided support to the Sub-Branch by running weekly raffles in order to fund the printing of Life Member Jim Davis's book, "*A History of The Magnetic Island RSL Sub-Branch 1955-2015*".

From the beginning of 2017 until the present date, the CA has so far only raised \$591.00. This was raised on Anzac Day from our Raffle, and donations for tea, coffee and Anzac biscuits. We haven't yet held Sunday Night Raffles as the crowd numbers haven't been large enough. However, it is hoped that this will improve during the winter months with the influx of our southern visitors. A number of businesses on the island have been approached, which has resulted in the donation of a good supply of gift vouchers for our Sunday Night Raffles and we are hopeful of getting more. People are happy to donate to the RSL, and we reward their generosity by awarding them Certificates of Appreciation, and by thanking them for their sponsorship in our Newsletters and on our website.

We also have a small core group of CA members, namely Jenny Safe, Marty Forsberg, Peter Chapman and Lyn Evans, and myself, whose volunteer duties include, but are not limited to: cleaning the hall; restocking hand towels, toilet paper etc.; putting out tables and chairs on Friday and Sunday nights; laundering the tablecloths; providing raffle prizes; running raffles; organising and holding fundraising events; putting up

notices to advertise events; writing and distributing the Newsletter; buying bar supplies; maintaining membership records and e-mail addresses; assisting with ground maintenance: not to mention the immense effort on the part of CA volunteers which goes into assisting with running of Anzac Day and Remembrance Day commemorations. The list goes on.

Together with volunteer RSL Service Members, we also have several CA and Non-League members who volunteer behind the bar on Friday and Sunday Nights. These include, Marty Forsberg, Robert Payne, Marie de Monchaux and Dennis Schinkel.

As you can see, there is quite a lot of work involved in supporting the Sub-Branch and I would like to express my thanks to all these wonderful Citizens Auxiliary volunteers and my apologies to anyone I may have missed.

Jan Chapman, President, Magnetic Island RSL Citizens Auxiliary

MOTION: That the Citizens Auxiliary report be accepted.

MOVED: Allan MacKenzie **SECONDED:** Anton Prinsloo **CARRIED**

11. **Confirmation of Public Liability**

Pat Trewin presented the following statement on insurance coverage:

The Sub-Branch policy through AON Risk Services (through RSL Queensland) provides Public and Products Liability Insurance for Magnetic Island RSL Sub-Branch, including when providing and administering an RSL organisation in Queensland, at public displays, fundraising activities, marches, Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day ceremonies, and occasional use of Sub-Branch property by miscellaneous community groups and/or one-off hirers. Compensation is payable in respect of bodily injury and damage to property caused by an occurrence and/or accident within the geographical limits (anywhere in the Commonwealth of Australia) in connection with the business and its products. Public Liability is \$20m for any one occurrence; Products Liability is \$20m for any one period. The RSL of course also has business insurance which covers our building and contents.

12. **Appointment of Returning Officer**

The President invited Jim Davis to be Returning Officer; Jim accepted the appointment.

13. **Election of Office Bearers**

Jim Davis thanked the outgoing Board of Directors and declared all positions vacant.

Written Nominations:

President: Geoff Barlow was nominated by Chris Evans, seconded by Allan MacKenzie.

There being no further nominations for the position, Geoff Barlow was elected.

Vice-President: Allan MacKenzie was nominated by Chris Evans, seconded by Geoff Barlow.

There being no further nominations for the position, Allan MacKenzie was elected.

Treasurer: Anton Prinsloo was nominated by Dave Dawson, seconded by Chris Evans.

There being no further nominations for the position, Anton Prinsloo was elected.

Secretary: There being no written nominations for Secretary, voting on this position was deferred.

Membership Officer: Chris Evans was nominated by Dave Dawson, seconded by Anton Prinsloo.

There being no further nominations for the position, Chris Evans was elected.

Welfare Officer: There were no written nominations for this position. However the meeting concurred that President Geoff Barlow would assume these responsibilities.

Director: Dave Dawson was nominated by Anton Prinsloo, seconded by Chris Evans. Elected.

Director: Pat Trewin was nominated by Dave Dawson, seconded by Anton Prinsloo. Elected.

MOTION: That nominations for remaining positions be taken from the floor, subject to confirmation.

MOVED: Geoff Barlow **SECONDED**: Pat Trewin **CARRIED**

Secretary: Nominations were invited for the position of Secretary. No nominations.

The Returning Officer invited volunteers prepared to be appointed as Secretary. No nominations.

The Returning Officer requested Pat Trewin to continue as Interim Secretary until a suitable appointment can be made within one month. Accepted.

Director: Pat Trewin presented a written nomination from Bert Mollet for the position of Director, which had been received after the closing date. As Bert had indicated acceptance of the nomination, he was duly elected.

Director: Pat Trewin presented an email from Keith Chambers in which he expressed a willingness to be elected to the Board if there were insufficient nominations from Island residents. As Keith had indicated he was willing to be elected to position, he was duly elected.

The incoming President thanked Jim Davis for conducting the elections and resumed the chair.

14. **Appointment of Delegate/s**

MOTION: That Allan MacKenzie be appointed as Delegate.

MOVED: Pat Trewin **SECONDED**: Pam Barlow **CARRIED**

MOTION: That Geoff Barlow be appointed as Alternate Delegate.

MOVED Allan MacKenzie **SECONDED**: Peter Johns **CARRIED**

15. **Endorsement of Advocates, Pension and Welfare Officers**

MOTION: That Geoff Barlow be appointed as Advocate, Pensions and Welfare Officer for the Sub-Branch.

MOVED: Jim Davis **SECONDED**: Peter Johns **CARRIED**

Note: Trevor Mullins has also agreed to continue to support the Sub-Branch's welfare services as needed.

16. **Appointment of Solicitor and Auditor**

MOTION: That Cameron Turnbull be appointed as Sub-Branch Honorary Solicitor.

MOVED: Geoff Barlow **SECONDED**: Jim Davis **CARRIED**

MOTION: That Crowe Howath be appointed as Sub-Branch Auditor.

MOVED: Anton Prinsloo **SECONDED**: Pat Trewin **CARRIED**

17. **Address by Ewan Cameron, Vice-President, RSL Qld**

The President invited Ewan Cameron to address the meeting. A summary of the main points of his address follows:

Congratulations to Allan MacKenzie on his report and for stepping up as President. Sub-Branch is to be commended on its membership, vibrance, record, progress and status to date. Encouraged to work on communication to get the message out, eg Community News as we need communications wider than our RSL membership.

Re Ross Eastgate's comments in Bulletin, there are national issues affecting all State RSLs and some charities have been deregistered. RSL Qld is co-operating with ACNC, as are all State branches. Any adverse findings will be remedied, but RSL Qld prides itself on its corporate governance. Disappointed at some other state who are not performing so well: detailed corporate structure of RSL NSW; RSL SA currently trading

insolvent, were supported by RSL Qld with capitation fees; problems with Alice Springs RSL who purchased hotel and non-payment to solicitor.

Some current dissatisfaction with RSL Qld by discontented members. RSL Qld previously paid Directors out-of-pocket expenses without receipts but new system started two years ago. In September 2014 tax laws changed and new policies were introduced. From 2016 out-of-pocket expenses must be validated by receipt or Stat Dec. Credit cards were introduced Feb 2017 but Directors still must acquit expenditures.

On positive notes, RSL Runner and RSL News have been very positive, recommended reading.

Having a current serving member on the Magnetic Island Board is good news. RSL Qld is making and building connections with current Army units.

Bill O'Chee's national report on homelessness is available through District and is recommended reading. The report has been adopted by RSL Qld who have contracted the Salvation Army to provide services to address veteran homelessness.

Geoff Barlow queried how the RSL is dealing with the complaints, especially on social media. Ewan noted that RSL Qld's response is on their website and that the RSL Qld Art Union had suffered with a loss of some 30,000 subscribers. He stressed that RSL Qld does not engage in comments and discussion on social media.

Jim Davis thanked Ewan for his informative address.

18. **Address by Bill Whitburn OAM, President, RSL North Queensland District**

The President invited Bill Whitburn to address the meeting. A summary of the main points of his address follows:

Thanks to Allan and the outgoing Board for their hard work, in particular Pat for her efforts as Secretary and Geoff for his hours on veteran welfare. Acknowledged the volunteers and the difficulties of getting volunteers, not only for the RSL; affected by an aging population and distance from Townsville.

Heartened that we have filled our Committee positions, but may need in the future to address becoming a Chapter of Townsville RSL.

Thanks also for hosting Timor-Leste delegation, who also visited Townsville RSL.

Magnetic Island RSL's reputation is excellent for a sub-branch of our size.

The manager of ADTP is visiting Townsville in August; delegates are to be invited.

Encouraged to apply to the District Cadet Fund to support local cadets.

Congratulations to the incoming Committee.

Date of next AGM will have to be earlier than May; all sub-branches will be required to hold their AGM before the District AGM in April.

Geoff Barlow thanked Bill for his comments.

19. **General Business**

Nil

20. **Confirmation of Date of 2018t AGM**

To be discussed at next Board Meeting.

21. **Thanks for Attendance/Meeting Close**

Geoff Barlow thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 5.02pm.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY