

# Magnetic Island RSL



## Special Interest Articles:

- A year in Review
- New signage!
- A Request for Vietnam photos
- A treasure of 124 spitfires found

*The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance*

## A synopsis of 2012...

*A review of 2012 by Pat Trewin, the president of the Magnetic Island RSL...*

"Hello RSL Members,

As we wind down to end of 2012, everything continues to motor along nicely at our RSL Sub-Branch.

We are pleased to say that, due to the changes we have made, we are now in a much healthier financial position than we were six months ago. We also applied for and received a grant from the ANZAC Day Trust, a fund which reimburses some of our previous year's costs. That grant was received a few weeks ago and we are now breathing more easily, with our future into 2013 now assured.

We are still running our usual events which are our major ongoing income source:

### **Friday Markets.**

We have a varied group of stalls at present, including food stalls and stalls which

have possible gifts for Christmas. It's also a lovely way to spend a Friday evening, to have a drink and a meal at the RSL. The bar is open and meals are available from 5pm.

### **Sunday Roast.**

Sunday night is a great way to wind down after the weekend and recharge for the week ahead. Why cook when Jenny will provide you with a beautiful roast dinner at a reasonable price? And desserts are available too. Add in the lovely music by our pianist Lorraine and it's a delightful atmosphere to catch up with friends or bring along your family.

### **Bingo.**

Bingo has been running along nicely each week. However with the Carols on next Thursday, and various Christmas commitments for our people, we have decided to take a short break. Bingo will be back again on Thursday 10th January. Everyone is welcome.

Our Christmas Raffle is selling well and tickets are now

## Synopsis... continued

available at the RSL for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Someone is going to win themselves a lovely hamper of Christmas foods and other goods! The raffle will be drawn at our Sunday Roast on 23rd December.

### Development Plan.

In other matters, planning for the future of our Sub-Branch is continuing under the wonderful guidance of Tania Thoreau, a very talented lady who knows how to get the best out of us and guide us in our future development. We have done all the analysis of where we are now, what Strengths and Opportunities we have and what Weaknesses and Threats we face (the good old SWOT analysis). We are developing the image of what we want to be in the future, including what we can offer to the Island community, and the strategies we need to adopt to get there. All of this will culminate in our formal Development Plan in the New Year. It will help us ensure that we provide the best services we can provide with the resources available, and secure our place as part of the Island community for the next few years.

### Membership.

Also at the end of the year it's time to remind all our members that the period for renewal of your membership is 1 December - 28 February. You can renew at the RSL on a Thursday, Friday or Sunday evening, or you can make a direct deposit into our bank account – just make sure you also provide your name/s and the word 'Membership'. Our account is QCCU BSB 704 640, Account No 662336. Renewal costs \$20 for Service members and \$10 for CA Members. Unfortunately the

computerised membership system used by the RSL won't accept renewals after 28 February so if you don't renew before then you will have to rejoin with a new membership application. So you can save yourself that trouble by renewing during the next 11 weeks.

### Some Thanks.

Have you noticed that we have a new fence between the Memorial Hall and our neighbours on the eastern side? This was a joint project of the neighbour and a small RSL team: the neighbour paid for the materials and our volunteers did the hard yakka of putting fence up, a dusty and hot undertaking over two weekends. Our thanks go to Peter Chapman and his dedicated team of Chris Evans, Martyn Forsberg, Davin Schwarz and Anton Prinsloo, all of whom have effectively saved the Sub-Branch from paying half the cost of the fence. Thank you so much, gents!

Davin and Chris are also responsible for keeping our grounds looking good, not an easy task in this hot dry weather – thanks to them for that also.

And to Chris and Martyn who have repaired and replaced a riser on our front steps which had been munched by white-ants, another job well done, thanks so much.

We are so lucky to have such dedicated volunteers and I would not wish to leave out our lovely Jenny Safe who runs our kitchen three nights a week and always goes the extra mile for the RSL, including also providing cleaning services. Jenny is one of our most dedicated and hard-working members. Along with Jenny, thanks so much to Lyn Evans who helps out with everything

unobtrusively and efficiently, is a great help to the Sub-Branch, and also provides laundry services for our table linen.

Our CA President Jan Tester is always available to help also, great at conducting raffles, and is a regular worker at Bingo each Thursday; it was great to see her walk away with some lovely prizes this week.

Also at Bingo, thanks to our main caller and the person who started it all, Jan Simpson, and those who help her out each week, Trish Young, and casual caller Robert, who's also our token gentleman each week. Special thanks to Dave Dawson, our Treasurer, and Helen Foulkes, our Office Manager, who put the hours in to look after our financial wellbeing, and who were responsible for securing us the much-needed funds from the ANZAC Day Trust.

Finally a big thank you to the volunteers who man our bar on a Thursday and Friday night – Jenny Safe, Linda Creed, Dave Dawson, Martyn Forsberg and Anton Prinsloo, and of course a great big thank you to our Bar Manager Karen Jones - you will still see Karen at the RSL on Sunday nights when you pop in for your delicious Sunday Roast.

Regards, Pat

Pat Trewin  
President  
Magnetic Island RSL Sub-Branch

## Invisible no more!

**INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**  
TECHNICAL SERVICES



City of  
**Townsville**

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Date >> 24 December 2012

**Mr Pat Trewin**  
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Dear Mr Trewin

**SUBJECT >> Community Facility Name Sign - RSL Memorial Hall**

Thank you for your letter dated 8 December 2012 requesting directional signage to the RSL Memorial Hall in Hayles Avenue, Magnetic Island.

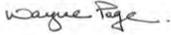
In considering this request, there are some guidelines which must be followed, one of which includes the need to provide signage along the most direct route for first time visitors. There are also signing standards which provide a common message across the State.

It is reasonable to assume that people who are looking for the RSL Memorial Hall will know it is at Arcadia and therefore it is not necessary to have a sign at the roundabout adjacent to the ferry terminal at Nelly Bay.

A sign at the intersection of Bright Street and Marine Parade is not favoured as Bright Street has a number of intersecting streets, and is quite winding. Due to these two factors, it is likely that additional signage is required along the street to reinforce this route. The favoured location for signage is on the corner of Armand Way and Hayles Avenue which provides the more direct access from the major road across the Island. Council will install a double sided sign with white letters on a brown background advising 'RSL 400m' on the street sign post at the corner of Armand Way and Hayles Avenue. The works will be carried out as soon as materials and labour resources become available.

Thank you for taking the time to raise your concern with council and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**Wayne Page**  
Acting Manager Engineering Services

[PAGE - 1 OF 1 REFERENCE -> 1512161.DOC-17062525.FILE COMMUNITY FACILITY NAME SIGN RW1.HWT]
ABN -> 44 741 902 172

*"Council will install a double sided sign with white letters on a brown background advising 'RSL 400m' on the street post at the corner of Armand Way and Hayles Avenue. The works will be carried out as soon as materials and labour becomes available".*

## Ghosts of History...

Often we see historical photos in black and white and wonder at what had happened to those involved and what they had endured.

However, we hardly ever think about the fact that we often still live and work in exactly those same places and sites in which these old photographs had been taken.

Below is a link to a web site that has taken some of these old black and white plates and superimposed those old images onto modern day photos of the same spots.

Pay this website a visit for a truly interesting and fascinating experience. Wonderful find Pat!

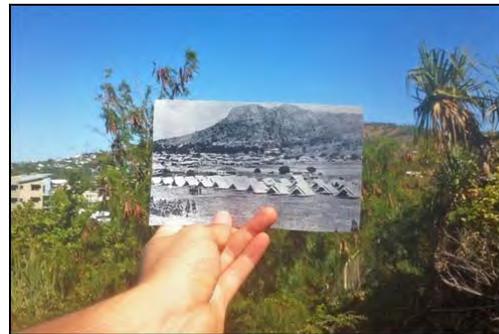
[www.ghostsofhistory.co.uk](http://www.ghostsofhistory.co.uk)



*“Grandcamp-Maisy (Calvados) dans la cour de l’église, rue du Commandant Philippe Kieffer. Flanked by units of a 9th Air force, citizens of a village behind the front lines in Normandy celebrate their traditional Bastille Day for the first time in over four years. Here they honor their war dead of 1914-1918 and 1939-1944”*



*“Rue Dom Pedro, civilians and American soldiers tear down the sign indicating the headquarters of the Todt organization in Cherbourg.”*



*“A sample of a similar complication by a local photographer of the American tent camp in Townsville during the last world war....”*

## Photos for the Wall of Faces...

The Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) is searching for the families of hundreds of soldiers who died in the Vietnam War for a new 'Wall of Faces' memorial to be built in Washington.

The memorial - part of the new Vietnam Veterans Education Centre (VVEC) in the US - will tell the story of the Vietnam War and is planned to open in 2015. Within the memorial, Australia's story will be told alongside that of the United States. The central feature of the VVEC will be a 'Wall of Faces' - a photographic Roll of Honour featuring the photo and details of every single Australian and American service men and women who died in the Vietnam War. In July, OAWG wrote to 143 known next-of-kin, seeking their agreement to display a suitable photo and the service details of their family member on the 'Wall of Faces'. To date, the OAWG has received overwhelming support for the project in the responses received. While enlistment photos are available for all

men and women, OAWG's preference is for other, better quality images to appear on the 'Wall of Faces'. The photos may be from prior to enlistment or taken while in service, in uniform or civilian dress. Each family's preference for the image of their serviceman or woman will receive first consideration. All photographs provided to OAWG will be treated with care and respect and will be returned to the owner as soon as possible. If you are able to assist in this search for the families, or you possess a photo of a Vietnam serviceman whose name appears on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, please email the OAWG at [VVE@dva.gov.au](mailto:VVE@dva.gov.au)



## Unearthing 124 Spitfires buried in Burmese jungle

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:  
[www.rslmagneticisland.com](http://www.rslmagneticisland.com)



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*Article  
courtesy the  
Daily Mail*

An archeological team is heading to Burma in the hopes of unearthing dozens of British Spitfires said to have been buried there at the end of the Second World War.

Over one hundred unused and unassembled aircrafts were supposedly buried in the Burmese jungle by the RAF in 1945.

The 21-strong excavation team flying out tomorrow will include a 90-year-old war veteran who claims to have witnessed the burial of the Spitfires after the war ended.

Some 36 planes are thought to be lying undiscovered in Mingaladon - one of three potential sites in the country - with as many 124 Spitfires buried in total.

Farmer and aviation enthusiast David Cundall, from Lincolnshire, is spearheading the dig, having spent 17 years and thousands of pounds researching the project.

Speaking at Heathrow Airport's Hilton Hotel, in London, he described plans to return the Spitfires to Britain for restoration to allow them to be flown again.

'There's lot of rumours about why they were buried but the common theory is that they were buried after the war - in August and December 1945 - because they were surplus to requirements. Somebody gave the order, let's dig a hole and let's bury them.

'They will be restored to flying condition and hopefully they'll be flying in about three years' time at air shows, and promoting British industry as well.'

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