THE BRANCH

NEWSLETTER



June 2022



Poppy Project Team Leader Fliur-Louise Genevieve presenting Sub-Branch President, Brian Tidyman with Poppy Number 1. Proudly on display in the RSL Club foyer.





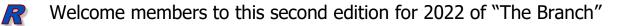




On behalf of the Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch committee and members, I was delighted to present Graeme Inglis, President of the Fraser Burnett Legacy Group, with a cheque in the sum of \$4,000.00 towards their Legacy Wards in Hervey Bay, after the General Meeting in Hervey House held on 7 May 2022.

Brian Tidyman







ANZAC Day has been commemorated and what a solemn day it was. Once again, the attendance was beyond expectation with more veterans marching and the citizens of Hervey Bay showing their support for the veteran community. Thank you one and all. The fly-over by the RAAF C17 Globemaster aircraft was the highlight of the day.



M

On the 24th and 25th of June I will be attending the State AGM in Brisbane and the main item on the agenda is the State Constitution without the controversial MVP section. Also on the agenda is the vote for the position of State Vice President with the incumbent standing as well as a younger member who has also applied for the position.



The Pension & Wellbeing section can be contacted on 07 4184 9496 Monday to Friday between 0900-1500hrs at 19-21 Torquay Rd Pialba on the 2nd floor. If out of hours, please contact the RSL Club reception for the contact phone number.



My door is always open for any member to come and have a chat, or if you have a grievance, as I will listen and hopefully the problem can be solved quickly.



Until next issue stay safe and healthy! Brian



Don't forget that you can keep abreast of what is happening with the Sub-Branch and Ex-Service Organisations by checking out our website - herveybayrslsubbranch.com.au



Our office hours are Monday to Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm or \$\alpha\$ 4197 7477.



11-13 Torquay Road, Pialba 4655



DATES TO REMEMBER 2022

Annual General Meeting

Last Saturday in February each year

February 26 10:30am

(held in 'Hervey House' at the RSL Club)

General Meetings

10:30am May 10:30am August 6 November 5 10.30am

(held in 'Hervey House' at the RSL Club unless advised otherwise)

Committee Meetings

Usually held the fourth Thursday of the month (no meeting December).

There will be a variation in February due to the National Day for War Animals commemoration service, and again in April when the Committee meeting is held before ANZAC Day.

Check the website for updates and variations

Ensure the RSL Club has your correct mobile phone details to receive event notifications and reminders by SMS text message

Commemorations observed in Hervey Bay:

February 24 National Day April 25 ANZAC Day National Day for War Animals

July 10 Rimau Commemoration July 27 Korea Memorial Day

August 15 VP Day

August 18 Vietnam Veterans' Dav

September 14 Peacekeepers Day November 11 Remembrance Day



Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch Pensions Service

Who are we?

The Hervey Bay Sub-Branch of the RSL offers a FREE Pensions and Advocacy service that is staffed and operated by qualified Compensation Advocates and Wellbeing Advocates.

Our staff provides professional advice and assistance on obtaining eligible benefits under the:

- Veterans' Entitlement Act (VEA);
- Safety, Rehabilitation & Compensation Act (SRCA) and
- Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act (MRCA)

In addition, the RSL State Branch Pensions, Advocacy and Wellbeing Service have advocates throughout Queensland who are:

Highly experienced in lodging claims under the

Veterans Entitlements Act (VEA), Safety, Rehabilitation & Compensation Act (SRCA) and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA);

- Caring and qualified to practice in their areas of expertise;
- Able to draw on a wealth of operational and broad-based peacetime experience; and
- Having served overseas and in the ADF for many years.

Services We Offer

The Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch's Pensions and Wellbeing Service covers disability pensions, compensation payments, associated allowances, income support payments and treatment available to entitled veterans and former serving members of the Defence Forces and their dependents.

The Pension and Wellbeing Office is open Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm a
Suite 18, 2nd Floor of the Signature Building, 19-21 Torquay Road, Pialba.
Email: pensions@herveybayrsl.org.au

Ph: 07 4184 9496





Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch Wellbeing Team

Our team of 16 Support Officers are trained and authorised to assist the ex-service community (Navy, Army, Air Force and Police)

This is a free service.

How can they help?

Support Officers are trained to assist with a range of services:

- Visits to Hospitals, homes and aged care facilities (these visits do not include the provision of information or advice); and
- providing services and support on behalf of the Sub-Branch, including but not limited to emergency financial support, accommodation and welfare checks.

How to contact the Wellbeing Team:

Office (07) 4184 9496 After Hours (07) 4197 7444

Email: <u>welfare@herveybayrsl.org.au</u>

To make an appointment with Wellbeing phone Meagan during office hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm.

The Pension and Wellbeing Office is open Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm at Suite 18, 2nd Floor of the Signature Building, 19-21 Torquay Road, Pialba.

Email: welfare@herveybayrsl.org.au

Do you want to help?

We are looking for more volunteers for our Wellbeing and Pension teams and you do not have to be ex-service to help out.

It would be an advantage if you have been involved in nursing, Community Services or Lifeline and could give a couple of hours per week. Advocacy Training and Development Program ("ATDP") training and mentoring will be offered to those wishing to do more.



The Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch volunteers in action











- 5 Mar 2022 President Brian Tidyman, accompanied by his wife Rose, and alternate delegate, Deputy President Brad Gray, attended the Wide Bay Burnett District meeting in Biloela.
- 9 Mar 2022 President Brian Tidyman met with Fraser Coast Regional Council representatives in relation to stairs at Freedom Park.
- 10 Mar 2022 The Hon. Keith Pitt joined in with the veterans at the Sub-Branch Veterans Day which is held on the first DVA pay day of the month, in the ANZAC Sports Bar.
- 15 Mar 2022 Planning commences for the 2022 Veterans Christmas Party see the details on page 13 of this newsletter, and the ANZAC Sports Bar noticeboard, Facebook and the Sub-Branch website.
- 25 Mar 2022 Wellbeing team and volunteers monthly meeting at the RSL Club.
- 28 Mar 2022 Wristbands for the ANZAC Day functions become available for members and their guests.
- 14 Apr 2022 President Brian chairs the Sub-Branch monthly meeting (held early in the month because of ANZAC Day).
- 25 Apr 2022 President Brian hosted the ANZAC Day Dawn and Main Services of commemoration at Freedom Park.
- 28 Apr 2022 Fliur-Louise Genevieve, Poppy Project Team Leader, presents President Brian with Poppy No. 1 (see front cover and page 9).
- 3 May 2022 Kenneth Price presents President Brian with his book "Broken Lives" as an addition to our military library (see page 13).
- 7 May 2022 President Brian chairs the Quarterly General Meeting in Hervey House.
- For the months of March, April and May the Sub-Branch provided an RSL Poppy Service at six funerals.
- Administrative assistance and/or supply of ordnance was provided to six Ex-Service Organisations and cadets as well as nine volunteer / welfare / community organisations in the Hervey Bay area.

Hello to all!

Firstly may we thank you, the public, for your support with our White Cross sales for ANZAC Day. Your support was very much appreciated.

Since our last report we have had two bus trips. One trip was to the Ginger Factory which was a really remarkable day. It was great to see how the ginger was grown and to see how they progress from the very humble start, which makes one appreciate the hard work done by so few. Our second trip was a mystery trip to a winery. I'm sure all who attended had a wonderful day. Thank you to Heather and Pauline for the time and effort that they put into arranging these trips for us.

On 28th June we will be holding our annual Tombola morning commencing at 10:00am with many prizes, raffles and Lucky Door prizes. We hope you can come and enjoy a great morning with us. All welcome!

We are pleased to say that during the past months we have had some new members join our Auxiliary which is very pleasing to see.

Once again, thank you for your support. Have a great day and take care.

Joan Hawkes Secretary May 2022

D Coy, 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment is having a Coy Reunion

in Hervey Bay from 22 July 2022 for 4 days.

We are a group of Ex-Servicemen and families who served in South Vietnam in 1967-68 and who try to have a Reunion every 3 years. Covid19 threw a spanner in the works in 2020 so we decided to put one on in Hervey Bay this year and have 62+ people attending so far. We are rapidly ageing so the Reunions become more important as each year marches on.

On the Friday we will meet up at Hervey Bay RSL & Services Memorial Club Inc for an informal Meet and Greet to commence the Reunion. On the Saturday we are bussing over to Maryborough to visit Gallipoli to Armistice Military Memorial and the Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum. Lunch will be in Maryborough. That evening we will have a relaxed Coy Dinner at the Memorial Club

the markets or other shopping instead. On the Monday, we will have a breakfast and enjoy free time as some people will return home that day and others will stay on longer. So it's time to say goodbyes to some and plan the rest of the day for others, or is it "Au Revoir" as we

Proudly supported by:



Reunion Coordinators.

Saving lives in the Sky

Nurses deal with life, death, and everything in between on a daily basis. They work in a stressful and fast-paced environment where being able to think on your feet is mandatory. It's not your average job. But throw in aero medivacs from helicopters, missions to rescue orphaned children in Vietnam, treating wounded soldiers, among many other things, and you have one hell of a job that's "out of the box".

That's the exact reason registered nurse Rosslyn Richards joined the Royal Australian Airforce Nursing Service in the height of the Vietnam conflict in 1969. She even brushed off her fear of heights to serve.

Both her parents served in the Army with her mother being a World War 2 nurse, but Rosslyn decided that wasn't for her. "I think the excitement of doing aero medical evacuations is what excited me and so I joined the Air Force. I wanted to think outside the box and that's what the Air Force gave me," Rosslyn said.

"I didn't want to work in a ward where it was the same, day in and day out, so then as a 21-year-old I went straight off night shift into recruiting". "It was a great way to see the world and get paid at the same time."

On completion of her Aviation Medicine and Aeromedical Evacuation training Rosslyn was posted to Fairbairn, ACT, then to Butterworth in Malaysia in 1970.

She spent 5 to 6 months in Penang working in an outpatient clinic for families of military personnel before being assigned back to Butterworth at the RAAF Hospital. That is where she was first appointed to the Medivac roster, with fortnightly routine flights on board Hercules aircrafts, bound for Vung Tau in Vietnam to evacuate sick and injured troops. "Medevacs were always exhilarating as you never knew what you were going to encounter," she said. "Each mission was planned for the worst-case scenario. Once you became airborne if you didn't have what you required you had to improvise. We became very innovative."

Next, Rosslyn was posted to the RAAF hospital in Richmond, followed by another posting to Newcastle six months later. That's where she met the love of her life Chris, an RAAF fighter pilot. The two were married within a year. Chris and Rosslyn were posted together in Malaysia in 1974 and Rosslyn, now a senior nurse, was the Sister in Charge of the women's and children's ward. It's here that Rosslyn experienced the most challenging mission of her career.

In April 1975, former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam announced that Australia would take in 260 Vietnamese orphans, with the majority being born as a result of liaisons with American soldiers. The children were sent to orphanages as they weren't accepted by the families. The mission: OPERATION BABY LIFT.

Immediately prior to the fall of Saigon, Rosslyn received a pre-dawn call from the hospital with instructions to bring her passport, overnight bag, and Australian currency to the airport. She didn't



As they took off to the safety of Bangkok, a US Galaxy aircraft crashed right before their eyes. Over 200 people perished in the crash including babies, children and workers from Vietnam orphanages. Initially thought to be sabotage, it was a malfunction in the cargo door that led to the plane's demise. "We were too far into our take-off to abort and so continued to Bangkok." "It was an absolute tragedy; my colleagues on the ground in Vietnam thought it was our plane that crashed. There was panic everywhere."

The wives of Australian embassy staff and English-speaking staff from a private hospital assisted in looking after the children while on the ground in Bangkok. The children were awaiting their final journey to Australia. "A Qantas aeroplane with Red Cross volunteers took the babies on to Australia." "Tired and relieved that our mission had been a success we reboarded a Hercules and returned to Butterworth."

In 1976, Rosslyn went on maternity leave with their first daughter and in 1977 transferred to the Air force reserve in Canberra and Richmond for the next 12 years, combining her career and the welfare of her family, that now included two daughters.

In 1991 she transferred back permanently to the Air Force and resumed her career fulltime for the next 10 years with postings as a senior nurse on base or in charge of all health services.

"My final years in RAAF were spent at Richmond as the Nursing Administrator." "This job presented me with a whole new set of challenges ... how did I staff a hospital including an operating theatre when overnight 2/3 of my staff had deployed to East Timor?" "Sleep was one of those things that happened when there was time. It was not unusual to work a 16-hour day and be on call seven days a week and know that you would be called at least once a night." But, Rosslyn said, she wouldn't have had it any other way. "I thoroughly enjoyed my military career, and would I have had it any other way?" "No, I would not change a thing!"

In 2004, Rosslyn was also involved in the making of an 'Operation Babylift' documentary for ABC's Hindsight program. A detail of the evacuation she had never spoken about until then was the fact that about eight older severely disabled children were also rescued on that mission. Their ages were played down for their lives to be saved. "It always bothered me because I felt that no one was going to adopt them. I never spoke of them until I did the interview on Hindsight.

"During the filming I met a lady that knew of them, and she said they all went to South Australia together and they all did well. "That was a relief for me."

The documentary also features children who were on board the planes that day, where they are and what they're doing now.

Now retired, Rosslyn is an active member of the Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch and - along with veteran Dutchy Lensing - shares their stories with local school children.

Written by Kerrie Alexander and reprinted with permission.



SOME NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MEMORABILIA COLLECTION

A new memorabilia acquisition Sub-Branch is a 1/98th scale model of Nelson's Flagship HMS VICTORY, a 104 gun 1st rate ship of the line.

This model was built over a five year period by Mr Denis Forster of Hervey Bay. It is on display in the Sub-Branch office, but will be rotated with the model of the STS DANMARK presently located in the RSL Club foyer, on a six monthly basis.

We sincerely thank Mr Forster for this kind donation to the RSL.



Another recently donated item is a 1908 Pattern British/Australian Cavalry Sword, as used by the Australian Light Horse and still in use by RAAC.

Kindly donated by Mr Richard Brown, ex-3RAR and RSM RAAC



Thank you to Gerry English who has kindly donated a pair of Japanese Naval Binoculars from World War II. These are still in good working order!

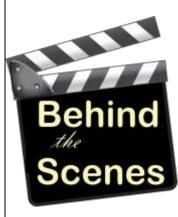


You are looking at Poppy No. 1 from the 1443 made by the Poppy Artists under Poppy Project Team Leader Fliur-Louise Genevieve (see front page). Now proudly on display in the RSL Club foyer.

There are a limited number left of these beautiful poppies and they are available now from the Hervey Bay RSL Club foyer for \$25.00 each.

All proceeds go to veteran welfare. So far this project has raised \$40,000.00 g







President Brian and Secretary Kevin navigating the ANZAC Day wristband list and new EFTPOS machine!



Memorabilia Officer Simon and Merchandising Officer Toby going through their paperwork ready for ANZAC Day 2022



Wellbeing Co-ordinator Chrissy and Wellbeing Admin, Alicia, getting ready to use the "Attention Getter" at their monthly meeting!



Committee Member Garry quality testing morning tea for the troops!



Treasurer Tracy - always looking for more ways to save money!



Deputy President Brad waiting for more members to come in and join the Sub-Branch



Treasurer Tracy and Secretary Kev having fun behind the bar in The Boardroom

ANZAC DAY 2022

Cracow







David and Elaine Sollars The story of our 60 year romance

A man with a plan is how it all began David was the man with a plan, Plan A and Plan B. Plan A was to find a female live-in housemate. Plan B was to find a wife if Plan A failed.

David was a serving member of the Australian Air Force, based in Darwin. He was lonely and drinking far too much. He decided that having a lady in his life would fix these problems, so he boldly decided that whilst on leave at Christmas he would be on a mission to find her.

It was about 10:05pm on David's first night home when he went to the Criterion Hotel to buy some beers. He was served by a quiet, stunningly beautiful girl. David immediately thought, "this girl deserves more than working behind a bar in a hotel." Elaine sold David the beers and thought David had lovely eyes.

Two days later, David asked Elaine out on a date to the Teddington Weir. It was just on dark and David thought, it is now or never. Mustering his courage, David asked Elaine to come back to Darwin. Elaine responded by saying "My father would not let me go unless I was married." David, not being backward in coming forward, said "that's easy, marry me then." Elaine said "that would be wonderful but you would have to ask my father first."

David asked Elaine's father for her hand in marriage, and he said "what for?" David says "because I love her." Her dad said "alright then."

Now let us recap:
They met on Friday night.
David proposed on Sunday night.
Monday they purchased the ring.
Two weeks later they got married.

Talk about "Speed Dating" and "Married at First Sight", they wrote the script!

They honeymooned on the Gold Coast and started their new life as a married couple in Darwin. David was in the Australian Defence Force based in Darwin.

Their life was never dull and always changing. Each Posting sending them to new places. A two year posting in Malaya was their most favourite. Elaine remembers it as a "free and easy way of life."



The Air Force transferred David to numerous places, the final one was Sunshine in Melbourne. This is where David eventually retired from military life and they became a civilian family.

David and Elaine purchased their first home in Swanpool, Victoria, where they lived for seven years. After Swanpool they moved to Minyama on the Sunshine Coast for a further 33 years.

During these times they worked in a variety of jobs including caravan parks in Gladstone, the Sunshine Coast and New South Wales. They also had a gardening/lawnmowing business. Elaine also worked as a grease monkey for Steelcraft. These adventures happened with their three kids, Wayne, Karin and Cherie all in tow.

When asked what their biggest challenge was, David responded by saying "teaching Elaine how to drive on the airstrip in Darwin." David said Elaine somehow managed to find reverse gear whilst driving forward at about 15kph. David lost his nerve after that. Elaine laughed at the memory and confirmed it was true.

They said their favourite car was the Mini. They would pack it to the max, and go on adventures. They loved to travel. They caravanned to Broome in Western Australia, flew over the Bungle Bungles, travelled to Ayers Rock, Katherine Gorge, Coober Pedy, Mataranka Springs and houseboating on the Murray River. The Murray River was spectacular even though David beached the boat twice.

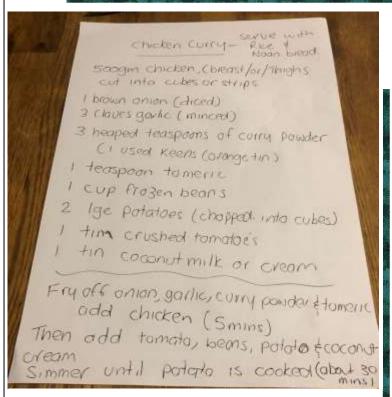
Elaine spoke of David's generosity and said he paid off her PYE radio that she had on lay-by when they first met. The lay-by was a couple of pounds, which was big money back then.

David was so proud of Elaine when the team she coached at netball made it to the Grand Final. They both agreed they work well together and the years haven't always been easy, but they have been 60 wonderful years and more than they could have hoped for.

The
Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
use Chris Thompson
at Law Essentials for all their
legal requirements.

LAWessentials

4/79 Torquay Road, Pialba Q 4655 PO Box 3358, Pialba Q 4655 P (07) 4197 5600| www.lawessentials.net.au



The Sister-In-Law Curry!

Just add rice and Naan bread for a delicious meal.

Perfect for warming up on these

cool Hervey Bay evenings!





Spotlight



My name is Efthimios (Tim) Haritopoulos and I have recently started my own business, Physical Prosperity.

I'm an Exercise Physiologist and Nutritionist with previous experience in the Military, Medical Missionary work and Personal Training.

My passion is helping people understand and apply the fundamentals of health that will promote habits of well-being.

My last 4 years of employment was providing Exercise Physiology and Nutrition services at Galangoor Duwalami in Hervey Bay.

I'm currently working with NDIS participants and DVA in Hervey Bay and looking to further help this community.

Don't forget to visit our webpage for all the latest Sub-Branch news. www.herveybayrslsubbranch.com.au

"Broken Lives" by Kenneth N Price

Sub-Branch President Brian Tidyman was delighted to receive the book "Broken Lives" by author Kenneth N Price.

You are welcome to borrow this book from our library or get your own copy from Amazon.com or Booktopia.com.au

Go into the trenches with the Australian troops of the 9th Battalion. Follow the exploits of Lieutenant Peter Bowen and Sergeant Craig Williams during the major battles of 1917 and 1918. Then go to the streets of Paris and London and observe the impact that the Great War had on the civilian population of these great cities.

Follow Sister Ann Copley as she works selflessly to nurse the casualties of war. Observe some of the changes that took place at this time regarding the relationships between men and women, as they struggled to make sense of the upheaval to their society, which was happening all around them. Empathise with Yvette, a young 'war widow' whose life is turned upside down, and her struggle to find companionship and to forge a future for herself.

In current times it is difficult to fully appreciate the horror of war on an industrial scale and the bewilderment felt by people living through such a war for the first time in history. This book shows how broken were the lives of those who lived through it, and some of the questioning of societal values that followed. This period of history really was what Gertrude Stein referred to as 'The Lost Generation'.











VALE 1 March 2022 — 31 MAY 2022







CLARK, Michael	2/777445	Army	02.03.2022
FOSTER, Frederick George	310855	Army	07.03.2022
MITCHELL, Paul Raymond	2752364	Army	23.03.2022
FAY, Victor Charles	R44765	Navy	23.03.2022
CHISNALL, James	58756	Army	16.04.2022
WEEKS, Bruce Lancelot	01423	Navy	16.04.2022
WISDOM, Joseph Charles	14826582	British Army	25.04.2022
KINGSTON, Clyde Anthony	1/713505	Army	02.05.2022
JOSEPH, Donald Joseph	1400280	Army	10.05.2022
STAFFORD, Douglas Anthony	1734350	Army	11.05.2022
ENGLISH, Barry James	1732076	Army	28.05.2022

TRANQUIL THEY LIE, THEIR KNIGHTLY VIRTUE PROVED.
THEIR MEMORY HALLOWED IN THE LAND THEY LOVED.
LEST WE FORGET

Hervey Bay Ex-Service Organisations

Ex-Service Organization	Meeting details		
Hervey Bay & District Veterans' Association PO Box 3042 HERVEY BAY Q 4655	Third Tuesday of the month 9:30am Hervey Bay RSL Club		
Hervey Bay Ex-Servicewomen's Social Club, Hervey Bay Branch P.O. Box 3339 HERVEY BAY Q 4655	Second Monday of the month 10:30am Hervey Bay RSL Club		
Hervey Bay Legacy Group PO Box 3302 HERVEY BAY Q 4655	Contact Legacy House on 4194 5111 The office is open Tue-Fri 9:00am to 1:00pm. There is an answering service for after-hours.		
Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch Inc PO Box 3042 HERVEY BAY Q 4655	Committee: Fourth Thursday of the month 10:15 am Hervey Bay RSL Club	General Meeting: Feb, May, Aug, Nov 10:30 am Hervey Bay RSL Club	
Hervey Bay RSL Women's Auxiliary PO Box 3042 HERVEY BAY Q 4655	Second Tuesday of the month 10:00am Hervey Bay RSL Club		
National Servicemen's Association of Australia Hervey Bay Branch PO Box 3042 HERVEY BAY QLD 4655	Fourth Wednesday of the month 10:30am Hervey Bay RSL Club		
Naval Association of Australia Fraser Coast Sub-Section PO Box 3042 HERVEY BAY QLD 4655	Second Sunday of the month (excluding January) 11:00am Hervey Bay RSL Club		
RAAF Association Hervey Bay PO Box 1076 HERVEY BAY Q 4655	Second Wednesday of the month 10:30am Hervey Bay RSL Club		
TPDSA (Fraser Coast) Inc PO Box 3241 HERVEY BAY Q 4655	First Wednesday of the month Alternating between Hervey Bay RSL Club and Maryborough RSL Club		
Legacy Laurel Club PO Box 5482 TORQUAY Q 4655	Third Monday of the month 2 pm Hervey Bay RSL Club		
Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia Hervey Bay City Sub-Branch PO Box 3243 HERVEY BAY Q 4655	First Monday of the month 10 am Veterans' Social Centre, Main St, Pialba		
War Widows' Guild PO Box 1238 HERVEY BAY Q 4655	First Monday of the month 10 am Hervey Bay RSL Club		

For further information contact the Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch on 4197 7477

Support your local RSL Club and affiliated businesses

HERVEY BAY CLUBHOUS









