

Friends of the Avenue Newsletter

June 2014

Message from the President ~ Ray Byrnes



Hi Friends,

In this issue of our quarterly newsletter, we have put together several articles about events that have happened over the past few months. It certainly has been a hectic time for the Committee and volunteers with organising the ANZAC Ball at Mareeba RSL, the inaugural ANZAC Day Dawn Service and the recent visit to the Avenue by the Governor-General His Excellency Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove, as well two visits to the Avenue by the Harley Owners' Group (H.O.G.s). I would also like to thank Mary Cooney, President QCWA Yungaburra, for providing us with a report on the Governor-General's visit.

I would especially like to acknowledge the hard work that our devoted committee members and volunteers carry out from behind the scenes, as well as the terrific support we continue to receive from Tablelands Regional Council and Visitor Information Centres. We are also very appreciative of the participation and contributions of 1 RAR and 5th Aviation Regiment Operations in Townsville, the 51st Battalion, HMAS Cairns and the Patriots (Cairns Chapter). We would also like to thank Major Mark Smith and the 1st Battalion Headquarters for their donation, which was raised from an annual ANZAC Day Footy Match in Townsville.



L-R: Tim Webster-Young & Lyle Wakeling

In regard to our regular volunteers, I cannot speak highly enough of their ongoing support. Under the leadership of Marion and Hugh Watson, these folk do an outstanding job at the Avenue with regular working bees. It is due to their dedication and hard work, each and every day of the week, that the Avenue is kept in pristine condition.



Hugh & Marion Watson



L-R: Hugh & Marion Watson, John Hardy, Counsellor Rod Marti, Ray Byrnes, Trevor Friend, David Osborne, Terry Twomey, Terry Edmondson & Tim Webster-Young preparing for the ANZAC Day Service



L-R: Terry Edmondson, Marion Watson, Ray Byrnes & John Hardy selling merchandise and promoting the Avenue outside Bunnings in Atherton



It was an honour for us to have a very special visit to the Avenue by Murray Smith and his partner, Robyn. They arrived on a Harley Davidson along with hundreds of other H.O.G.s' members from all over Australia. A guard of honour was formed by some of their fellow bikers and Murray laid a wreath at the Honour Board for his son, Corporal Scott Smith. Scott was a member of the Special Operations Task Group and was from the Special Operation Engineer Regiment based at Holsworthy Barracks, Sydney.



ANZAC Ball held at Mareeba RSL



Once again, the ANZAC Ball held at Mareeba RSL was a huge success, many thanks to the excellent contributions and hard work of Barb and Craig Reedman and Tracey O'Shea (pictured). This was their second ANZAC Ball and the proceeds were donated to Soldier On and the Avenue.

1 RAR Band from Townsville came up again and played some fantastic toe-tapping music and their ongoing support is very much appreciated. Guest speaker, Michael Lyddiard, who was injured in Afghanistan by an IED in October 2007, certainly inspired people with his talk.

Afghanistan Veteran Craig Reedman says, "functions like this are essential in raising vital funds for the ongoing maintenance of the Avenue, to keep it looking as pristine as it does today. Therefore, support from the community and 'Friends of the Avenue' is greatly appreciated and we look forward to more people participating at next year's event".

Craig, Barb and Tracey would like to say thank you to all their sponsors for their wonderful donations.

Black Tie Dinner Dance @ Malanda RSL Saturday 7 June ~ 6.30pm

Don't forget that this coming weekend Kay Moloney is running the Black Tie Dinner Dance which will be held at Malanda RSL. Kay puts in many hours with organising these events and as she suggests, "round up a few friends and enjoy the privilege of getting your glitz and glamour rags out in support of our injured returned services personnel and the Avenue; otherwise, just come in what smart attire you have in your wardrobe".

The framed and signed Maroon's State of Origin Jersey raffle will be drawn at this event and it is not too late to purchase tickets on the night.



If you would like to attend and need more information about this function, please contact Kay directly on kay.molon@bigpond.com or 4096-6301.

ANZAC Day Dawn Service 2014

The inaugural ANZAC Day Dawn Service far exceeded our expectations with the large number of people who got up in the wee hours of the morning to attend. Being that it was our first Dawn Service at the Avenue, we anticipated that there would only be a small number of people attending. However, we felt very humbled when such a large crowd turned up, including our Tablelands Regional Council Mayor Rosa Lee Long and Councillor Rod Marti, who had numerous other services to attend across the Region. Many attendees had travelled long distances to be there, including numerous military and ex-military people and their families.



Many thanks to Advance Cairns CEO, Mark Matthews, who did an outstanding job as MC; we greatly appreciated his wise counsel during the weeks leading up to the Dawn Service. Having spent many years in the military, Mark was an invaluable help to us.

Mark said, "it was an honour and privilege to be invited to be part of the inaugural Dawn Service at the Avenue of Honour. It was a very moving ceremony and thanks to all who made it so".

We were extremely appreciative of the participation and support of 22 1 RAR lads travelling up from Townsville to take part in the Dawn Service, under the leadership of Sergeant Joel Sorraghan. Joel played a hugely important role while he was up here, inclusive of being the Guest Speaker at the Yungaburra ANZAC Day Service. AAHA look forward to 1 RAR's involvement at next years' services.



Sergeant Joel Sorraghan & 1 RAR personnel



Members of the Cape York H.O.G.s



L-R: Paul Shore, John Hardy, Ken Cork, Brian Taylor & Hugh Watson



Asher & Dean Davidson



1 RAR at Yungaburra ANZAC Day Service



L-R: Bob Egan with Ean & Sally Irvine

Visit to the Avenue by the Governor-General, His Excellency Sir Peter Cosgrove & Lady Cosgrove ~ Mary Cooney, President, QCWA Yungaburra



What an exciting time it was for Yungaburra and district on the Atherton Tablelands to have the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove and his wife Lady Lynne Cosgrove visit. The occasion was to acknowledge the 41 brothers in arms who lost their lives in the conflict in Afghanistan by laying a wreath in their honour.

Yungaburra QCWA was invited to cater for morning tea for about 100 principal guests. It was Volunteer Week and, as was especially requested by His Excellency, the President or their representative attended from numerous volunteer and community organisations across the Tablelands. We considered it an honour to be asked to cater and our members turned up with traditional cooked and prepared food, served with their usual high standard of volunteer service.

*QCWA Yungaburra President, Mary Cooney, being congratulated by The Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove.
Photo Credit: QCWA Yungaburra*

Donations to QCWA to host the morning tea came from Tablelands Regional Council, the AAHA and Shane Knuth MP (Dalrymple). This money will go to the QCWA State Drought Appeal with absolutely no administration costs.

AAHA members, Ray Byrnes (President), David Osborne (Treasurer), Annie Cork (Secretary) and other 'Friends of the Avenue' volunteers give much of their time, money and excellent skills to maintain the high standard for all who come to visit and remember our sons who we have lost. QCWA considers this event was the combination of two outstanding volunteer organisations, QCWA and AAHA, to make this event one to be remembered.



L-R: Mareeba Shire Mayor Tom Gilmore, Ray Byrnes, Sir Peter & Lady Cosgrove & TRC Mayor Rosa Lee Long



L-R: LTCOL Matt Silver, Michael Campion LS2, Geoffrey Cattana WO2 & Mark Cooper WO



L-R: Ollie & Belinda Fowler, Jason Kuchel, Stuart Cummings, Fiona Anderson & Barb Reedman

