

13.3 Notice of Motion - Ballina RSL Youth Club

THE RETURNED AND SERVICES



President  
*Mr Max J. Lewis*  
Hon. Secretary  
*Mr A.E. (Davey) Crockett*  
Treasurer  
*Mr A.J. Walsh*

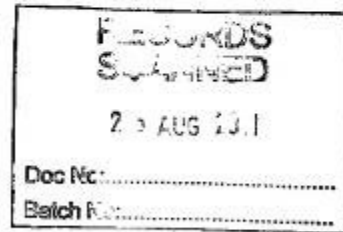
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA  
(New South Wales Branch)  
"The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance"  
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*Mr Gary Hooley, Chairman Ballina RSL Club Ltd*

The General Manager,  
Ballina Shire Council,  
P.O. Box 450,  
Ballina,  
N.S.W.,                      2478



23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011

Dear Sir,

**Re: 2011/2012 Operational Plan: ECM #1825045**

The Ballina RSL Sub-Branch was dismayed to receive your recent letter.

On behalf of the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch, I would like to request a review of the Council's decision not to provide assistance to cover the partial cost of rates for the Ballina RSL Youth Club.

I would like to make you aware of the fact that the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch is a not-for-profit organisation, part of the nation-wide network of the not-for-profit Returned and Services League of Australia. The Ballina Sub-Branch does have an amount of money held in trust on behalf of the members. The Returned and Services League of Australia, N.S.W. Branch, our governing body, has strict rules regarding this money, so that the capital continues to be held in trust, while the interest earned can be used for the member's present and future needs.

The Ballina RSL Sub-Branch has taken it upon itself to assist the wider community of Ballina, by providing funding for both the Ballina RSL Youth Club and the Ballina RSL Lighthouse Day Club, as well as many other community groups. This assistance is not within our charter, but nevertheless, the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch is doing this to provide for our Ballina Community.

You would be aware, of course, that in the last few years, the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch has provided a brand new solid black granite replacement cenotaph for the wider Ballina Community. This cenotaph, which cost in excess of \$50,000.00, was entirely funded by

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the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch. It was placed in Council's Memorial Park *at no cost whatsoever* to the Council or people of Ballina Shire.

With reference to the RSL Youth Club, it is run at a huge loss to the Sub-Branch. However, there are in excess of 400 registered children that attend the following sections, mostly after school, 5 days a week, plus many weekends as well:

- Kindy Gym
- Kindergarten Level
- Boxing
- General Fitness
- Recreational Gymnastics
- Competition Level Gymnastics

During school holidays, the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch provides buses for the children to attend activities, outings, etc.

In school terms, during school hours, at least 4 local schools use the facilities, 5 days per week:

- Southern Cross School K-12: 300 children per term
- St Francis Xavier School: 35 children for 20 weeks
- Emmanuel College: 300 children per term
- Richmond Christian College: 265 children per term

If the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch did not provide the Youth Club's facilities, then where would our youth go? There would be huge community pressure on the Council to provide similar facilities for the betterment of our youth.

The RSL Day Club is also sponsored by the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch to assist older, infirm and isolated Senior Citizens to have the weekly opportunity to socialise and be stimulated with carefully structured activities. The Sub-Branch provides monetary assistance to the Day Club and provides 2 buses with volunteer drivers, all at no cost to the Day Club, so that free transport can be provided to and from the homes of the Senior Citizens to the meeting venue. The Sub-Branch also assists with financial requests as required, such as helping to meet the costs of the Day Club volunteers, so they can attend training courses, conferences, etc.

It should be noted that the RSL Youth Club and the RSL Day Club assistants are all volunteers.

The Ballina RSL Sub-Branch also provides financial support to the following community organisations:

- Ballina Hospital Welfare volunteer visiting
- Ballina Aged Care facilities volunteer visiting
- Ballina Legacy
- Ballina Ex-Services Home

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- Ballina Shire Concert Band
- Ballina Pipe Band
- Ballina Christian Choir
- Ballina Public School Band
- Xavier Catholic College Band
- Ballina Ex-Servicewomen's Association
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter
- Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal
- 216 Army Cadet Unit
- 326 Sqn Air Force Cadet Unit
- TS Lismore Navy Cadet Unit
- City of Lismore RSL Sub-Branch
- 41<sup>st</sup> Battalion, RNSWR
- Care Packages for local military personnel serving overseas
- Royal Australian Navy Deployed Ships Fund

As you can see, the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch provides assistance to many community organisations, many of which are outside the RSL Charter. This is done as goodwill by our members, to the community in which we live. If the Sub-Branch does not provide this assistance, then I am sure that many of the afore-mentioned organisations would be approaching the Council, "cap in hand", for assistance, thus putting further pressure on the Council.

It is requested that the Council re-assess its decision in not providing a rate reduction of \$2,909.03 to the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch for the Youth Club premises.

We look forward to favourable consideration of our request to overturn the original decision, and therefore assist the Youth of our Shire.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A. E. "Davey" Crockett,  
Honorary Secretary

***If you wish to discuss this in person, the contact person is Mr Peter Cucilovic (Trustee), phone: (02) 6686 0986, or mobile 0412 011 489***

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