VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND

VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND

ANNUAL REPORT 25/26





www.vnq.org.au

AGENDA
2026 Annual General Meeting

Meeting Date: 22 October 2026 - 7:00-7:45am
Location: 38 Canterbury Road, Kirwan

1. Meeting Open & Welcome
2. Attendance (including Proxies)
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of Previous AGM Minutes
5. Presentation of Reports

- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Project Officer's Report

6. Special Resolution
7. 2025/26 Management Committee to Vacate Positions
8. Election of 2026/27 Management Committee
9. Appointment of 2026/27 Auditor
10. General Business
11. Meeting Closed

MEETINGS MINUTES
2025 Annual General Meeting

VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND

AGM Minutes October 2025
For 2024-2025 Year

Meeting Date: 20th October 2025
Location: 38 Canterbury Road, Kirwan

"VNQ proudly advocate inclusion and diversity in the community through training, functions, activities, and engagement. We value, and are strengthened by, our diverse abilities and cultures and supports our youth, elderly and indigenous communities."

MEETING OPENED: 7.30pm

1. **Attendance: Including any proxy forms- See attached**

   Moved: Anne **Seconded: Tenason**

2. **Apologies: See attached List**

   Moved: Margie Seconded: Michael

Chair to confirm:

- Number of attendees with Voting rights: 11
- In our Constitution what is the required amount to continue as the AGM: 50 % of membership Plus 1. Our requirement is 6.

3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest and disclosing remuneration and other benefits**
   - List any declared – See attached declaration from Margie Ryder
   - As per the incorporation act- Margie Ryder to read out and table her declaration of the amount of Money paid to her during the 2024-2025 financial year

4. **Confirmation of previous AGM minutes:**
   "That we approve the 2023 AGM Minutes."

   Moved: Michael Seconded: Tenason

5. **Presentation of Reports:** Verbal and printed
   - Presidents Report- As per annual report
   - Treasurers Report- As per annual report

   Moved: Chair MP Natalie Marr **Seconded:** Anne C

6. **Special Resolution**
   - The following Membership review has been circulated to members and the following Motion is proposed.

"That we accept the proposed recommendation in relation to memberships fee's for the 2025-2026 Financial year."

Need to spell out clearly what the fee's will be: As per attached

- Individual $15.00
- Organisation $50.00
- VRS- as per levels $100.00/200.00 $300

Moved Michael Seconded: Tenason

Carried- all in Favour

7. 2023/2024 Management Committee to Vacate Positions.

Prior to this we wish to acknowledge the resignation of 3 Members and thank them for their service

- Donnie Harris
- Ernie Bunt 10 Years
- Rob Birnie

Call upon Chairperson :

The following nominations have been accepted and received by the due date 6th October 2025, with the exception on one received 19/10/25

Position	Nomination	Nominated by	Seconded By	Accepted Yes/ No
President	Ann Camplin	Margie Ryder	Michael Pugh	Yes
Secretary	Margie Ryder	Michael Pugh	Ann Camplin	Yes
Treasurer	Michael Pugh	Margie Ryder	Ann Camplin	Yes
Management Committee	Tenason Stark	Margie Ryder	Michael Pugh	Yes
Management Committee	Tracey Bannerman	Margie Ryder	Michael Pugh	Yes
Management Committee- Late Nomination	Jasmine Peak	Tenason	Margie	Yes

8. Election of 2025/26 Management Committee

"That we accept the nominations and declare the new committee

Moved: Tenason **Seconded:** Michael

9. Appointment of 2024/25 Auditor

"That we appoint Peter Dadic as the Auditor for the following year"

Moved: Michael **Seconded:** Anne

10. General Business

Nomination for Life Members:

- Di Rodgers
- Anita Berry
- Ernie Bunt
- Carole Hourston
- Denise Grainger

Moved: Margie **Seconded: Michael**

Meeting Closed: 7.45pm

.....

These minutes are a true recollection of the meeting held on this date:

Signed: **Dated:**

20/10/2025

President or Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ANNE CAMPLIN

Stronger Together, Making a Difference Across North Queensland



What an incredible year it has been for Volunteering North Queensland!
As we reflect on the past 12 months, I am immensely proud of our achievements, the partnerships we have strengthened and, most importantly, the extraordinary volunteers who continue to make our communities stronger.

This year has been about listening, connecting, recognising contributions and ensuring the voice of volunteering is heard, from our smallest rural communities through to the highest levels of government.

Taking Volunteering to the Regions

One of our greatest achievements has been the success of our Stronger Together regional initiative. We travelled extensively across North Queensland, engaging with volunteers, community organisations and local governments in communities including Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Richmond, Hughenden, Charters Towers, the Burdekin, Hinchinbrook, Longreach and Barcaldine.

Through hundreds of conversations and survey responses, we identified significant challenges facing volunteer organisations, including increasing compliance requirements, ageing volunteer workforces, succession planning, volunteer burnout and difficulties attracting new volunteers.
Importantly, we also witnessed the remarkable resilience, passion and determination of regional communities. These consultations have provided valuable evidence to shape future training, advocacy and support, reinforcing the importance of ensuring rural and regional volunteers are heard, valued and supported.

Inspiring the Next Generation

Our strengthening partnership with James Cook University has created exciting opportunities to introduce students to volunteering through our Event Volunteer Pool and community engagement activities.

By connecting young people with meaningful volunteering experiences, we are helping them develop confidence, practical skills and community connections while supporting local events and organisations.
Engaging the next generation is essential to building a strong and sustainable volunteering sector.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT.

Celebrating Our Unsung Heroes

Our Volunteer of the Year Awards remain a highlight of our calendar, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and organisations throughout our region.
These awards celebrate the everyday heroes who generously give their time, skills and energy without expecting anything in return.

Our VEXPO Volunteering Expo continued to grow as an important platform connecting prospective volunteers with community organisations.
This year, VEXPO attracted a range of organisations and attendees, with eight organisations reporting successful volunteer recruitment through the event.
Both initiatives showcase the diversity of volunteering and demonstrate that everyone has something valuable to contribute.

Taking the Voice of Volunteers to Government

Advocacy has remained a major priority for VNQ.
Our involvement in the Parliamentary Inquiry into Volunteering provided an important opportunity to highlight the challenges and opportunities facing volunteer organisations, particularly those in rural and regional Queensland.

We have also engaged through the office of the Hon Anne Leahy to advocate for greater recognition of volunteers and their contributions.
Volunteering plays an essential role in community wellbeing, emergency response, sporting clubs, events and vital community services. We remain committed to ensuring this contribution is recognised, valued and supported.

Partnerships That Make a Difference

We were delighted to welcome Queensland Country Bank as a valued partner, supporting our volunteer-involving organisations and individual memberships.
Our partnership with The Cheesecake Shop Deeragun through our Thank You Thursday initiative has also provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise deserving volunteers and member organisations with a small but meaningful gesture of appreciation.

We sincerely acknowledge our sponsors, funding bodies, Townsville City Council and corporate and community partners whose generosity and continued support make so much of our work possible.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT.

Training and Building Stronger Organisations

Through our Back to Basics workshops, regional training and ongoing support, we have assisted organisations with practical challenges including governance, compliance, funding, succession planning, volunteer recruitment and committee responsibilities.
We recognise that many community organisations are managed by people already giving enormous amounts of their time.
Our commitment is to provide accessible, practical training and resources that build confidence, strengthen organisational capacity and help volunteer groups plan for the future.

Building a Sustainable Future

Successful funding applications, stronger partnerships and continued government engagement have helped strengthen VNQ's sustainability and secure support for our core services.
Looking ahead, our priorities include strengthening our Volunteer Referral Service, expanding practical training, recognising volunteer contributions and continuing to advocate for our sector.
We remain committed to building on the success of Stronger Together and extending our regional reach, although further expansion is currently dependent on securing additional funding.

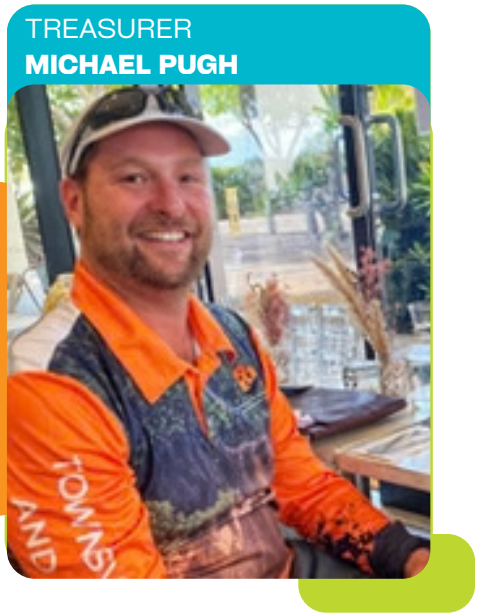
A Heartfelt Thank You

To our Management Committee, staff, contractors, volunteers, members, sponsors and community partners, thank you for your dedication, enthusiasm and unwavering support. To the thousands of volunteers across North Queensland, thank you for continuing to show up, lend a hand and make our communities better places to live.
If this year has reinforced anything, it is that volunteering is the heartbeat of our communities.
Together, we have achieved so much, and together, there is so much more we can accomplish. When volunteers are supported, organisations become stronger, communities thrive and North Queensland becomes a better place for everyone.

Thank you.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MICHAEL PUGH



This year has seen Volunteering North Queensland grow its income, expand its activities and reach more volunteers and community organisations.

Total income increased from $138,764 to $230,738, an increase of 66.3%. Total expenditure was $227,742, leaving a surplus of $2,996, compared with a deficit of $9,095 the previous year. Accumulated funds at year end were $34,041.

The Stronger Together Tour was a major highlight, bringing in new income while taking our services and support to more regional communities. New partnerships have also created opportunities for further income into 2026–2027, helping us build a broader funding base.

The detailed income figures supplied show some encouraging growth:

Income stream	2025	2026	Increase
Referral membership	$1,374.65	$4,256.36	$2,881.71, or **209.6%**
Corporate partnerships	$11,727.27	$25,500.00	$13,772.73, or **117.4%**
Partnerships	$0.00	$15,409.09	**$15,409.09 in new income**

These results reflect the work put into building relationships and showing the value of what Volunteering North Queensland delivers. We also welcomed a **$14,000 First Start trainee grant**, supporting employment and skills development within the organisation.

The growth in activities, attendance and outcomes meant we needed more people and resources to deliver the work. Salaries increased from **$78,937.66 to $128,206.98**, an increase of **$49,269.32**, or **62.4%**. Contractor expenditure increased from **$3,004 to $24,634**, an increase of **$21,630**.

These additional costs supported the increased delivery of our programs and services. As the organisation grows, we will continue to monitor staffing and delivery costs closely against the income available.

Following the end of the financial year, the Queensland Government announced funding of **$62,500 per year for two years**, a total commitment of **$125,000**. This announcement is separate from the income reported for the year ended 30 June 2026 and provides welcome support for future planning and service delivery.

While the year finished with a modest surplus, continued attention to funding, expenditure and partnership development remains essential. Our focus is to build on this year's progress while keeping the organisation financially sustainable.

Thank you to our funding partners, sponsors, members, volunteers, staff and management committee. Your support has helped us reach more communities and strengthen volunteering across North Queensland.

PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

MARIA TAIFALOS & ANNE ARNOTT

Reporting Period: 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

PROJECT OFFICERS
MARIA & ANNE



Throughout the 2025–2026 financial year, Volunteering North Queensland (VNQ) continued to strengthen volunteering across North Queensland through volunteer referrals, community engagement, training, regional outreach, partnerships and volunteer recognition.

Volunteer Referrals and Membership

VNQ recorded 839 volunteer referrals during the financial year, compared with 804 in the previous year, and 1,775 consultations compared with 1,386 the previous financial year, reflecting continued demand for volunteering opportunities. The organisation also supported prospective volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations through consultations, information services and individual assistance.

Membership engagement remained a priority, with VNQ continuing to support individual, organisational and Volunteer Referral Service members, while developing opportunities to strengthen membership participation and services

Events, Expos and Community Engagement

VNQ maintained a strong community presence through local events, university pop-ups, information stalls, networking opportunities and volunteer recruitment activities.
A major highlight was VEXPO 2026, held over two days in May, attracting approximately 355 visitors and 39 stallholders. The introduction of the Show and Shine Car Show broadened community participation, with at least eight organisations reporting successful volunteer recruitment following the event.
VNQ also supported volunteering at major community events, including Country Fest and Bartlett Park Rodeo, and continued to build its event volunteer pool through partnerships with James Cook University and local event organisers.

Training and Regional Capacity Building

Training and capacity building remained a significant focus, with workshops covering grant writing, AI tools, governance, organisational planning, volunteer management, scam awareness, financial responsibilities and disaster preparedness.

The Stronger Together regional roadshows were a key achievement, delivering practical support to community organisations across Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Barcaldine, Longreach, Hinchinbrook, Burdekin, Charters Towers, Hughenden and Richmond. These initiatives helped strengthen the knowledge, confidence and sustainability of volunteer-involving organisations, particularly in regional, rural and remote communities.

PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT CONT'D

Volunteer Recognition and Celebration

VNQ proudly celebrated the contribution of volunteers through International Volunteer Day, the Inspire and Ignite networking series, the Heroes Amongst Us initiative and National Volunteer Week.

The 2026 Volunteer of the Year Awards attracted 62 nominations, with recipients recognised at a Civic Reception supported by Townsville City Council. The introduction of the President's Choice Award provided an additional opportunity to acknowledge outstanding community contributions. VNQ also launched its Thank You Thursday recognition initiative in partnership with The Cheesecake Shop, providing ongoing opportunities to celebrate local volunteers.

Partnerships, Projects and Community Connections

VNQ continued strengthening relationships with James Cook University, Townsville City Council, community organisations, schools and other stakeholders to expand volunteering opportunities and improve access to support services.

The Postcard Puzzle Project, delivered in partnership with Kirwan State High School and The Good Shepherd Home, created meaningful intergenerational connections between students and aged care residents.

VNQ also participated in Volunteer Resource Centre collaboration, sector advocacy, funding discussions and community consultation to strengthen the voice of volunteering across Queensland.

Grants, Sponsorship and Advocacy

VNQ continued pursuing funding, sponsorship and partnership opportunities to support service delivery and organisational sustainability. Engagement with government, Volunteering Queensland and other Volunteer Resource Centres helped inform future priorities, including regional training, volunteer management support, disaster preparedness and community capacity building.

What's in store for FY 26-27?

VNQ remains committed to connecting people with volunteering opportunities, recognising the contributions of volunteers and building the capacity of community organisations. Building on the year's achievements, priorities include expanding regional outreach, strengthening partnerships, growing event volunteering opportunities and delivering accessible, practical training across North Queensland.

Together, we continue to build stronger, more connected and resilient communities through volunteering.

MEMBERSHIP & REFERRAL STATISTICS REPORT

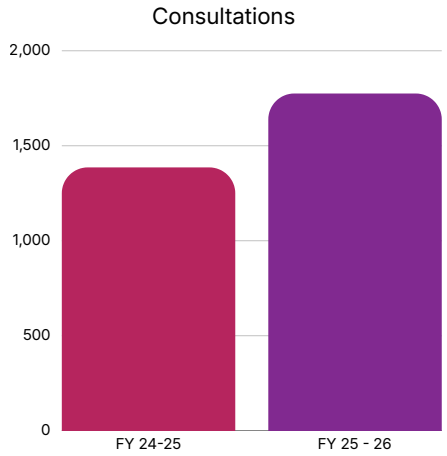
OUR 25-26 NUMBERS

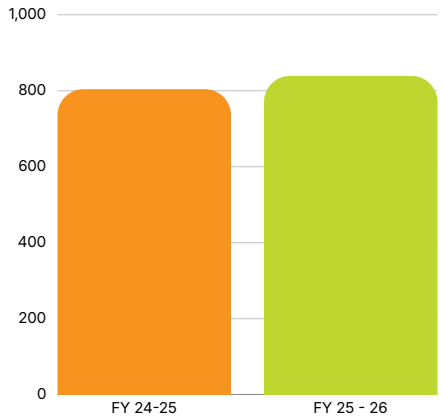
The total number of memberships Volunteering North Queensland had for the 25-26 financial year was 360.

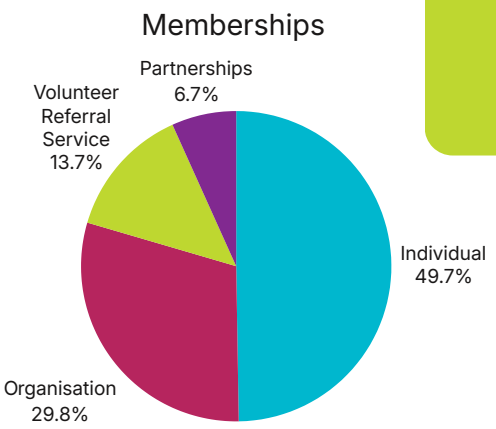
The number of referrals we made over the 25-26 period was 836.

The number of consultations made over the 25-26 period was 1,775.

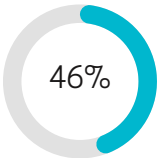
Due to rising costs and lack of funding, we introduced a fee for the Individiual and Organisation memberships. We were grateful that Queensland Country Bank came on board and sponosored those two membership categories for the 25-26 financial year.





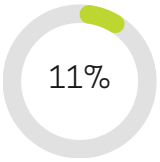


INDIVIDUAL (FREE SERVICE)



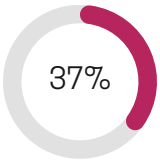
Standard membership connecting individuals to our organisation.

VOLUNTEER REFERRAL SERVICE (VRS)



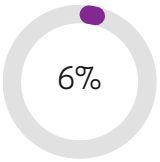
This service is a 'fee for service', based on the number of volunteer positions advertised.

ORGANISATION (FREE SERVICE)



Standard membership connecting other organisations to our organisation.

PARTNERSHIPS/ SPONSORSHIPS



The organisations we partner with on projects, sponsorships etc.

OUR CORPORATES AND PARTNERS FY 25-26

Thank you again to all of our Sponsors, Partners and Funders. We would not be able to keep our doors open without your generosity and support.

Funded by:

- Volunteering Queensland
  (Through Department of Social Services)
- Townsville City Council (through Community Grant)

Our Corporates and Partners:

Our Memberships Partner:

Current Individual & Organisation Memberships for 2025-26 were kindly supported by:

OUR TRAINING PARTNERS AND FUNDERS FY 25-26

Thank you again to all of our Sponsors, Partners and Funders. We would not be able to keep our doors open without your generosity and support.





































INTRODUCING OUR 25/26 MANAGMENT TEAM



Anne Camplin
President



Michael Pugh
Treasurer



Margie Ryder
Secretary

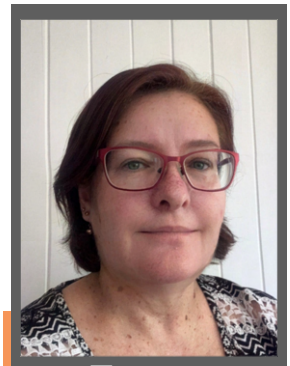


Tenason Stark
Member



Jasmin Peak
Member

Thank you to Tracey who retired from the Management Committee this year



Tracey Bannerman

MEET OUT EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Employees
Margie Ryder - Business Development
Maria Taifalos - Projects Officer
Anne Arnott - Membership/Referrals
Sarah Byrne - Bookkeeper
Kimberley Bell - Trainee Cert III Business





Volunteers
Carole Hourston - Communications
Denise Grainger - Membership/Referrals
Antonia Gerrard - Referrals

Employees/Volunteers moving on in 26/27
Margie Ryder - Business Development
Kimberley Bell - Trainee Cert III Business









EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Events/Community Engagement

- Heroes Amongst Us Tour – Good Shepherd Home
- Bluewater Garden Fair and Flower Show
- India Fest
- Seniors Expo
- Queensland Gives Grant Recipient Event
- VNQ Annual General Meeting
- Volunteer Resource Centre Roundtable, Brisbane/Sunshine Coast
- Disaster Ready Day
- NQ Connect Forum
- Queensland Country Bank Opening and Membership Launch
- International Volunteer Day Celebration
- VNQ Christmas Breakfast
- Defence Welcome and Information Day
- "Thank You Thursdays" Partnership Launch















Events/Community Engagement

- Inspire and Ignite Networking Breakfast
- Alice River Community Connect Morning
- QCOSS Town Hall
- National Volunteer Week Awards Civic Reception
- VEXPO – Volunteering Expo Day 1
- Inspire and Ignite National Volunteer Week Lunch
- VEXPO Day 2 and Show and Shine Car Show
- Good Shepherd Volunteer Appreciation Afternoon Tea
- Country Fest Event Volunteering
- Bartlett Park Rodeo Event Volunteering

POP-UPS, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND TRAINING

Pop-Ups & Community Outreach

- Centrelink Visit, Aitkenvale
- JCU Market Day
- JCU Live @ Lunch Pop-Up
- CIC Monthly Community Networking
- JCU Café Corner
- Chamber Coffee Networking
- JCU Café Corner, Education Central
- JCU Market Day
- JCU Networking at Night
- Chamber Coffee Event
- Townsville Youth Fest
- Rollingstone Neighbourhood Week Pop-Up
- JCU Live @ Lunch Pop-Up

















Training & Capacity Building

- Position Description Workshop with Di Newell
- Finding Your Calm with Shane Harris
- CBA Scams Awareness Session
- Grant Writing Workshop
- AI Grant Writing Workshop
- LDMG Disaster Preparedness and Community Directory Training
- Rollingstone Grant Writing Training
- Trainee Workshop
- First Aid Training, Session 1
- First Aid Training, Session 2
- ICAC Training with Townsville City Council
- QCOSS Grant Writing
- QCOSS HSQF Standards

POP-UPS, COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND TRAINING

Training & Capacity Building

- Julia Creek Stronger Together Roadshow
- Cloncurry Stronger Together Roadshow
- Mount Isa Stronger Together Roadshow
- Body Corporate Treasurer Training
- Grant Writing Workshop
- JCU Food, Festivals and Future Opportunities
- Barcaldine Stronger Together Volunteer Tour
- Longreach Stronger Together Volunteer Tour
- Rollingstone NBN Scams Awareness Workshop















Training

- Hinchinbrook Stronger Together Volunteer Tour
- Burdekin Stronger Together Volunteer Tour
- Introduction to Grant Writing with Scout
- Charters Towers Stronger Together Workshops
- Hughenden Stronger Together Workshops
- Richmond Stronger Together WorkshopsTraineeship Workshop

EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VEXPO

The Find Your Perfect Match – Volunteer Expo 2026 delivered strong outcomes in participation, engagement, and volunteer recruitment.

The event demonstrated significant growth compared to 2025, with increased attendance, high exhibitor satisfaction, strong volunteer outcomes, and enhanced cross-sector collaboration.

The introduction of the Show and Shine activation and ongoing partnership with Volunteering North Queensland contributed to improved reach and engagement.









VEXPO 2026 reinforced volunteering as a key mechanism for strengthening community participation, capability development, and workforce readiness.

HIGHLIGHTS

- VEXPO 2026 attendance ~ 355 across two days; 39 stallholders.
- Brand new Show and Shine feature which attracted a new demographic, raising further awareness of Volunteering Opportunities in the community.

PARTNERS

Thank you to our continued partners of this event, Workforce Australia Local Jobs Townsville, Townsville City Council, Volunteering Queensland, and our Brand new partners for the Show and Shine, Elite Performance and Tuning.







EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VNQ VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Held during National Volunteer Week celebrations, the annual awards honour the amazing North Queensland volunteers who work tirelessly to strengthen our North Queensland and surrounding communities.

Recipients were announced at a Mayoral Civic Reception, hosted by Townsville City Council during National Volunteer Week.

All nominees were invited to the NVW 'Inspire and Ignite' Lunch on Friday, 22 May, following the first day of VEXPO, where they received their certificates and were recognised for their invaluable contribution to volunteering.










wnsville Bulletin NEWS 07

Victims' advocacy CEO humbled by honours

Daniel Shirkie

A select few of North Queensland's hardest working individuals and community groups have been recognised at the 2026 North Queensland Volunteering Awards.

Singling out the most committed, community minded volunteers for their dedication and hard work, the awards were held at Townsville City Council on Walker Street on Tuesday night.

Long-time advocate and supporter of victims of child sexual abuse Kathleen Walsh was awarded the Volunteer of the Year honours, after being nominated for her tireless work across several community groups.

Founder and CEO of victim advocacy and support service Craic On, Ms Walsh is also a board member of the Townsville Rotary Club, a member of Zonta Club of Townsville Metro, Queensland Representative for LOUD Fence, National Survivors' Day Ambassador, and Justice of the Peace.

Ms Walsh said she was "deeply grateful and humbled" to receive the honour.

"Most importantly, thank you to the victims who have trusted me and allowed me the privilege of supporting you. I receive so much more than I give, and I hold each of you in my heart."

Runners up Garret Magian and Ramon Fenton were recognised for their work with emergency services and their support and advocacy for veterans, respectively.

Cub scout leader and chair of the Florence Bay Rover Crew Madi Hamilton took out the Young Volunteer of the Year Award, primarily being recognised for her consistent support of mental health initiatives across regional and remote communities.

Carol Sanderson earned recognition in the Lifelong Contribution to Volunteering category after helping establish the Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre and supporting the Lions Club and Palliative Care support in Ingham.

Youngster Jach Marsden was singled out for the President's Choice for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution Award after his efforts throughout the year, including hand-knitting beanies and other items for babies and cancer patients.

Volunteer of the Year award winner Kathleen Walsh

Sandra Lamari

Lorraine McClintock

The Florence Bay Rover Crew

Carol Sanderson

WINNERS

- Volunteer of the Year Award – Kathleen Walsh
- Youth Volunteer of the Year Award – Madi Hamilton
- Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award – Carol Sanderson
- Excellence in Volunteer Management Award – Sandra Lamari
- Community Volunteering Program Impact Award – Florence Bay Rover Crew
- Corporate Volunteering Award – Biniris
- Sports Volunteer Administrator Award – Lorraine McClintock
- Presidents Choice for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution Award – Jach Marsden









THE YEAR IN MEDIA

Future of volunteers in spotlight

Josh Mercer

The Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee has heard first-hand from Townsville volunteers as public hearings for the parliamentary inquiry continued.

In December, the Legislative Assembly agreed to a motion that an inquiry would take place into volunteering in Queensland.

Over 500 submissions were made online by those concerned about the future of volunteering.

"We understand that volunteer numbers are diminishing and as a government, we are very committed to identifying and hearing directly from volunteer stakeholders what the roadblocks might be," MP Sean Dillon said.

Having already travelled to Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville, Mr Dillon said while some issues were common across the state, there were also issues unique to geographical areas.The Gregory MP said it was a critical role of governments to listen to the people who were deeply invested in the volunteer space.

"We heard today from people who have provided decades of support, all the way back to Cyclone Tracy and beyond in some cases, they know their field, they know their role, and we as a government are here to listen," Mr Dillon said.

"The parliamentary inquiry's role is to take their recommendations and meld that into a report that can hopefully inform government policy and processes and if needed, legislation moving forward."

Secretary of Volunteering North Queensland, Margie Ryder said the community group had been advocating for a parliamentary inquiry, with the group putting in a motion at the Local Government Association of Queensland Conference in 2023.

"We've been pushing for this for a long time, so for the actual new government to make a call and do it, actions speak louder than words," Ms Ryder said.

"So for them turning up, showing up, listening is just amazing."







VNQ secretary Margie Ryder.

Youth answer callout to help

Volunteering North Queensland says the idea that young people are disengaged does not stack up after more than 82 James Cook University students registered for an information session.

The surge follows a partnership formed in May 2025 between VNQ and JCU career development officer Rosie

week.

"This proves young people do want to volunteer," VNQ secretary Margie Ryder said.

"The issue is not willingness. It is access, awareness and connection.

"When we show up, engage properly, and create real opportunities, they respond."

She said VNQ believed the future of volunteering depended on breaking down barriers and creating clearer, more accessible entry points for the next generation.

"These sessions are not just about filling volunteer roles," Ms Ryder said.

"They are about listening, learning, and reshaping how we engage young people across the sector."

Ms Cummins said students wanted to contribute and build real-world experience alongside their studies.



THE YEAR IN MEDIA

Thursday April 16, 2026 |

Vote for volunteer of year

Nominations are officially open for the 2026 Volunteer of the Year Awards, which include a special section for North Queensland's Best Neighbour.

Being run by Volunteering North Queensland, the awards are aimed at increasing recognition of the people who are the backbone of their towns.

VNQ president Anne Camplin said volunteers "show up" and make things happen in communities.

"These awards are our chance to say thank you and shine a light on the incredible impact they make," Ms Camplin said.

The eight categories people can nominate to are: volunteer of the year, youth volunteer of the year, lifetime contribution to volunteering award, excellence in volunteer management awards, community volunteering program impact awards, corporate volunteering award, sports volunteer award, and neighbour of the year.

Nominations close Sunday, April 19.

Paying tribute to our quiet achievers

The people holding North Queensland together rarely ask for applause. They just get the job done. Tomorrow, we put them in the spotlight.

In the lead up to National Volunteer Week, Volunteering North Queensland president Anne Camplin says the region relies entirely on these quiet achievers.

From disaster response to aged care, our region's volunteers do the work that simply would not be possible otherwise.

"Positive change often starts with one person choosing to give their time," Ms Camplin told NQ Weekend. "What's particularly powerful is that many of these volunteers don't see their contribution as anything special.

"They are just playing their part in our community."



In tomorrow's NQ Weekend magazine, we celebrate our volunteers, and publish a full list of finalists for this year's Volunteering North Queensland

ward to the



Jach Marsden has been recognised with an award for his charitable efforts; below Jach with Townsville Mayor Nick Dametto

KINDESS MATTERS TO JACH

DANIEL SHIRKIE



An award recognising him as one of the most outstanding volunteers of the year now sits proudly on his mantle at home, but for youngster Jach Marsden there's no accolade or trophy that can make up for how good it feels to help others.

The earnest, unflappable young man has earned plaudits and praise for his kind-hearted efforts in recent years, but regardless of what's being said, he's committed to keeping his head down and working away at the latest creation he has in mind.

Last October, then 11-year-old Jach - a student at Southern Cross Catholic College - turned heads and gained national acclaim after spending his time and effort knitting more than 100 beanies for newborn babies at the Mater Hospital, as well as for those facing homelessness.

Now, despite calling the Volunteering award "very special", Jach is refusing to slow down with his charitable creations.

"We're looking at doing something for the police next," Jach said.

"Maybe a ribbon or something like that. I'm really keen to keep developing it all.

"I'd love to make it international for people."

That goal is already halfway done, with Jach and his charitable organisation Happy Jach Knitting, having already worked with Jifunze International to send beanies to Kenya, where they've been placed on the heads of babies and in the hands of mothers.

The long list of projects also includes Anzac poppies worn in parliament by state politicians, Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander mementos, head scarfs and much, much more.

Having worked around the clock since he began the venture, Jach can now produce one of his creations in 30 minutes, or two hours to make the ones that require a loom.

"It makes me feel really happy, when I see people with the beanies and know that they're helping people," Jach said.

In part, his passion for knitting and giving back to the community was sparked by a yarn circle with Bianca Ponti, his First Nations Education Teacher at Southern Cross, but there's also another woman who Jach credits for his passion for knitting - and for doing the right thing.

> *We don't have to do something huge to make a difference*

"Mrs Ponti loves it.

"She's great, and she's kind of stepped back and just let Jach be Jach now," Jach's mother, Katie, said.

"Jach never met his great grandmother, but that's how he got his name.

"My dad used to call her Happy Jac.

"She used to knit a lot of beanies and jumpers for herself and when she was diagnosed with leukaemia for the third time she started knitting beanies for herself and all the other patients.

"I know she's up there, smiling down on this little rascal."

As for Jach, he's intent on keeping that kind, giving spirit alive.

"We don't have to do something huge to make a difference," Jach said.

"Even small acts of kindness, helping others, volunteering or being there for a friend can make someone's day better.

"I believe when we give a little of our time and kindness, we make the world a better place for everyone."

THE YEAR IN MEDIA



Volunteers can have their cake

Leighton Smith

North Queensland volunteers who dedicate their lives to helping others will receive an unexpectedly sweet form of recognition through a groundbreaking community partnership that will be announced on Thursday.

Volunteering North Queensland (VNQ) and The Cheesecake Shop Deeragun are launching Give Back Thursday, a community initiative that celebrates volunteers and charities who give back to our region.

VNQ secretary Margie Ryder confirmed that local charities and individual volunteers would receive well-deserved recognition for their hard work, thanks to the The Cheesecake Shop.

"Every fortnight, community members can nominate a local charity or volunteer who gives back to the Townsville region," Ms Ryder said.

"One recipient is selected to receive a celebratory cheesecake as a public thank you for their contribution to the community."

The official launch will take place at The Cheesecake Shop Deeragun on Thursday morning, attended by Townsville Mayor Nick Dametto and Thuringowa MP Natalie Marr.

Go to vnq.org.au

You can bank on volunteers

Josh Mercer

A new partnership has been struck between one of the state's most well known banks and a group which is the backbone of the community.

Volunteering North Queensland has announced its new partnership with Queensland Country Bank, which the organisation said was good news for the community's volunteer sector.

Membership fees for all volunteers involving organisations across North Queensland will be covered for the 2025/26 year thanks to the partnership.

Volunteering North Queensland President Anne Camplin said the partnership was a real boost for local groups who continued to do it tough.

"This is such a welcome help for our current members, many of whom are feeling the pinch with rising costs. To have a major local business like Queensland Country Bank step up and support the volunteers who hold our communities together really means a lot," she said.

"It was a hard call to introduce paid memberships this year, but it was the right one.

"We needed to find a way to keep the doors open, deliver training and events, and continue to support organisations who work tirelessly for our region."

Queensland Country Bank CEO Aaron Newman said the partnership fits perfectly with the bank's community values.

"Queensland Country Bank is proud to stand behind the volunteers who make North Queensland such a special place," Mr Newman said.



Show to shine a light on helping

Leighton Smith

A first-ever show and shine car event will rev up in Townsville later this month to encourage more visitors to attend an expo that connects community-minded residents with volunteering opportunities.

Held during National Volunteer Week, VEXPO 2026 is a celebration of the individuals who give their time, energy, and skills to keep communities strong, which will build on the success of last year's inaugural VEXPO.

Led by Volunteering North Queensland (VNQ), in partnership with Workforce Australia Local Jobs Townsville (including Mount Isa), VEXPO has quickly established itself as a key regional platform connecting community members with meaningful volunteering opportunities.

While the Friday May 22 event will see connections forged between hundreds of potential volunteers and more than 36 exhibitors, the expo will rev up on Saturday, May 23, when 20 impressive show-quality custom and concours vehicles are put on display between 9am and 12pm.

VEXPO project officer Maria Taifalos said the decision to introduce the show and shine was about thinking differently and responding to the challenge of engaging more people in volunteering.

"We know we can't do this on our own. If we want to grow volunteering, we need to create events that people want to come to," Ms Taifalos said.

"The show and shine gives us that extra drawcard, something fun, social, and engaging that brings people through the gates and into conversations about volunteering."

VNQ secretary Margie Ryder said they had just finished surveys about the need for volunteers with over 80 per cent of the local organisations saying they needed more volunteers.

For more information, visit: www.vnq.org.au



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 25/26

VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND INC

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

- Statement of Profit and Loss
- Statement of Financial Position
- Notes to the Financial Statements
- Statement by Members of the Committee
- Independent Auditor Report

PETER DADIC ACCOUNTANT
PO BOX 861
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND INC
ABN 89 493 383 445
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

2025 $		2026 $
	Income	
12227	Sponsorships	40909
5	Interest Received	0
122577	Grants	170071
3955	Other Income	5758
0	Training Service	14000
138764		230738
	Expenditure	
6070	Accounting & Bookkeeping	7087
2200	Audit Fees	2200
297	Bad Debts	0
101	Bank Fees	215
903	Catering	1637
3977	Community Events	15200
935	Computer Expenses	724
3004	Contractors	24634
5359	Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairments	3349
0	Grant Expenditure	2291
2366	Insurance	2520
0	National Volunteer Week	3366
1972	Office Expenses	1671
3112	Provision for Annual Leave	2301
78938	Salaries	128207
1168	Social Media Expenses	1307
2641	Subscriptions & Software	3009
640	Sundry Expenses	1144
9078	Superannuation Contributions	15196
964	Telephone & Internet	1117
12372	Training & Development Expenses	499
358	Travel & Accommodation	533
7246	Venue Hire	7291
2839	Volunteers Expenses	771
620	Website Development	678
699	Workers Compensation Insurance	795
147859		227742
(9095)	Net Profit (Loss)	2996
40141	Retained Profit at the beginning of the Financial Year	31045
31045	Retained Profit at the end of the Financial Year	34041

VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND INC
ABN 89 493 383 445
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

2025 $		Note	2026 $
	Assets		
	Current Assets		
28720	Cash and Cash Equivalents	**3**	48152
57893	Trade and Other Receivables	**4**	4163
86613	**Total Current Assets**		52315
	Non-Current Assets		
8361	Plant and Equipment	**5**	5012
8361	**Total Non-Current Assets**		5012
94974	**Total Assets**		57327
	Liabilities		
	Current Assets		
50000	Prepaid Income		0
13929	Trade and Other Payables	**6**	23286
63929	**Total Current Liabilities**		23286
63929	**Total Liabilities**		23286
31045	**Net Assets**		34041
	Members' Funds		
31045	Accumulated Surplus		34041
31045	**Total Members' Equity**		34041

VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND INC
ABN 89 493 383 445
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statement are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Basis of Preparation

In the officer's opinion, the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general financial statements.

These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the purpose of complying with the *Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981* and associated regulations. The officers have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members of Volunteering North Queensland Incorporated.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') and the disclosure requirements of AASB 1031 'Materiality ' 1048 'Interpretation of Standards' and AASB 1054 'Australian Additional Disclosures', as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

Historical Cost Convention
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical Accounting Estimates
The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the incorporated association's accounting policies. The area involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in Note 2.

(a) Current and Non-Current Classification
Assets and Liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset in current when: it is expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within twelve months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is current when: it is expected to be settled in normal operation cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to differ the settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-currents.

(b) Trade and Other Receivables
Other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any provision for impairment.

(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents
Cash and Cash Equivalents include Gash on Hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment
Property, Plant and Equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment (excluding land) over their expected useful lives as follows:

Plant & Equipment	3-7 years
Office Equipment	3-5 years

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no further economic benefit to the incorporated association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

(e) Employee Benefits
Short-term employee benefits
Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are recognised in current liabilities in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Other long-term employee benefits
The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are recognised in non-current liabilities, provided there is an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. The liability is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

(f) Trade and other payables
These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the incorporated association prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

(g) Income Tax
At the incorporated association is a charitable institution in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

(h) Revenue Recognition
Revenue is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the incorporated association and the revenue can be measured. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Grant Revenue
Grants are recognised at their fair value where there is a reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attached conditions will be complied with.

Interest Revenue
Interest Revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the related period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

(i) Goods and Services Tax (GST)
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST.

2 Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgments, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Employee benefits provision
As discussed in Note 1, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than twelve months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attribution rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND INC
ABN 89 493 383 445
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

2025 $			2026 $
	3	**Cash and Cash Equivalents**	
28720		Cash at Bank	48152
28720		Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	48152
	4	**Trade and Other Receivables**	
		Current	
55373		Trade Receivables	1472
2520		Prepayments	2691
57893		Total Current Trade and Other Receivables	4163
	5	**Property, Plant and Equipment**	
		Plant and Equipment	
101007		At Cost	101007
(92646)		Accumulated Depreciation	(95995)
8361		Total Plant and Equipment	5012
	6	**Trade and Other Payables**	
		Current	
0		Accrued Expenses	1800
1943		Superannuation Payable	0
3278		PAYG Tax Payable	6146
2166		Trade Payables	8942
3112		Provision for Annual Leave	5413
3430		GST Tax Payable	985
13929		Total Trade and Other Payables	23286

VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND

VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The committee have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.

In the opinion of the committee the financial statements as set out on pages attached.

1. Present fairly the financial position of the Volunteering North Queensland Incorporated as at 30 June 2026 and the results of the association for the year ended at that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Volunteering North Queensland Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

President_____

Treasurer_____

Dated this 8th day of October 2026

PETER DADIC ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNTING AND TAXATION SERVICES
REGISTERED TAX AGENTS

PETER DADIC (IPA)

PO BOX 861
TOWNSVILLE…QLD…4810

A 0405 676 479
Phone: P 0499 991 713

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF VOLUNTEERING NORTH QUEENSLAND INCORPORATED

Scope

I have audited the attached 'Special Purpose Financial Report' of the Volunteering North Queensland Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2026

The special purpose financial report comprises the detailed statement of income and expenditure, balance sheet, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the statement to the members of the committee for Volunteering North Queensland Incorporated, for the year ended 30 June 2026.

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the financial statements which for part of the financial report are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. This included responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

The special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Audit Opinion

I conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the association. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgment, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

I performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the association's financial position, and of its performance as presented by the results of its operations. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used and describes in Note 1, are appropriate for the needs of the members.

I formed my audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report, and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the committee.

While I considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of my procedures, my audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Independence
In conducting my audit, I followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Qualification
It is not practical for the association to establish accounting controls over all sources of income prior to its receipt and accordingly it is not possible for my examination to extend beyond the amounts of income recorded in the accounting records of the association.

Qualified Audit Opinion
In my opinion, except for the limitations imposed by the foregoing, the financial report of Volunteering North Queensland Incorporated presents a true and fair view in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, of the financial position of Volunteering North Queensland Incorporated as at 30 June 2026 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Townsville 12 August 2026

D. P DADIC - IPA