



Speech by

**Phil Weightman**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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## **REDLANDS RSL LIBRARY MUSEUM**

**Mr WEIGHTMAN** (Cleveland—ALP) (10.20 pm): On Saturday, 28 July I had the extreme pleasure and honour to open the Redlands RSL Library Museum in the old Cleveland Court House building opposite the Redlands RSL. The opening of this new facility was the culmination of many, many months of hard work by members of the Redlands RSL and the Vietnam Veterans Group of Redlands. These two groups joined together in this project in order to provide Vietnam veterans, service men and women and the wider community with a relaxing atmosphere in which they could read the many books available or view the many DVDs and videos that are also available as well as view a substantial range of war memorabilia on display.

This project was supported by the Queensland government through a \$30,000 grant via the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The money was well spent purchasing merchandise display cabinets, bookcases, glass secure display cases, display cabinet lighting and carpet for sound proofing the facility. Also purchased were multimedia equipment and computers to enable students and the community to access world conflict history via a link to other libraries and museums. This facility will also be available to local schools enabling students to carry out research projects on military history of Australian and allied forces and to view war memorabilia that has been accumulated by veterans and members of the community.

A tour of the facility on the day was very worthwhile on a number of levels, and the pride displayed by those who had worked very hard to have the facility up and running for the opening was obvious. My understanding is that it took many volunteers from the RSL, the Vietnam Veterans Group and the RSL Ladies Auxiliary about six months of hard work to categorise and set up the displays. These people should be commended for their dedication and commitment to having this facility ready for opening on time and also for the high standard of their work. The display is presented in a very professional manner and I found it a very enjoyable journey. I also noted that there was a degree of cooperation with the Redlands Museum and I welcome that cooperation between those two organisations.

The Redlands Museum is a leading regional museum in its own right and provides support to other small museums in the Redlands. I applaud this attitude and I congratulate the museum committee who rate amongst the many talented and dedicated volunteers who provide selfless service in our community. I look forward to supporting the growth of the Returned Services League Library Museum in the future, and I urge anyone who visits the Redlands to drop in and have a look at this first-class facility.