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# Charity ball with a Venetian twist

## Hide your face for a good cause

By NICOLE FUGE

IF A hero's usual get-up is a mask and cape, the fancy-frocked attendees at the Caloundra Ball are halfway there.

While it might be a bit of a stretch to call them heroes, to the local nippers they are helping them save lives.

The Caloundra Ball, on this weekend, is the second event for the Henzells Caloundra RSL Foundation and will see all proceeds donated to the local junior lifesavers.

Caloundra will recreate the aristocratic and artistic atmosphere of the Venetian Carnevale, while

raising much-needed funds for those little tuckers who will keep our water safe for years to come. Henzells Agency partner Garry Waters said last year's event was highly successful and raised about \$20,000 for the Compass Institute.

"This year we're allowing for each of the surf clubs, the Ithaca Royal Lifesaving Club and Caloundra Mets juniors, to receive at least \$5000," he said. "We've been supporting the nippers since the 1980s and it's an extension of that previous fundraising."

"Henzells already contributes \$6000 a year to the Kings Beach Surf Club. We support many charities and we've decided

we'll help them more this year, for the nippers specifically. "We've been in business since 1935, we wanted to leave a legacy of community involvement. The more we can back Caloundra, the better."

"Everyone has really got behind it... we think it will be quite spectacular. The whole idea of the ball is not only to raise money, but also have a good time."

While many of his colleagues had been showing off their intricate masks, Mr Waters admitted his was a little more reserved.

"Mine's not that exciting, more like the Lone Ranger."



CALOUNDRA BALL: Henzells Agency team is ready for the Venetian Masquerade ball.

PHOTO: CADE MOONEY

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# Museum has sights on F-111

WHEN Minister for Defence Materiel Jason Clare visited the Queensland Air Museum, his entry into their log book was a simple word - Brilliant. Volunteers at the Caloundra museum are optimistic their request to be gifted an F-111 by the Federal Government may become a reality following the minister's visit last month.

Despite numerous requests in its four decades of operation, Mr Clare was the first serving minister to set foot in the museum.

He was given a guided tour by QAM president Cliff Robinson and accepted a petition signed by more than 1890 people, with a further 222 online, calling for the aircraft

donation.

Mr Clare said the QAM was the only non-government museum he had visited.

"The dedication and commitment shown by the volunteers and staff towards preserving our military history was very impressive," he said.

"It takes a lot of effort to maintain such a large fleet of aircraft."

The outcome of the museum's request now rests with Department of Defence investigations.

"There are two challenges which need to be addressed in order to provide the F-111 aircraft to public or private museums," Mr Clare said. "The first is United States

Government approval and the second is how we deal with the asbestos on the aircraft."

The US-produced F-111s require permission to be transferred to non-government organisations.

Mr Clare said Defence had advised that more than 80% of the aircraft's surface panels have the potential to contain asbestos.

They are assessing how asbestos could be removed, remediated or safely contained, so that the aircraft could be safely displayed in public and private museums.

- ROXANNE McCARTHY O'KANE