

Underwood Family

Volunteer and community leadership legacy

Community contribution and philanthropy

Over multiple decades, the Underwood family businesses have demonstrated an exceptional and sustained commitment to supporting the Cairns community through significant financial contributions, long-term partnerships, and active involvement across a wide range of sectors.

Their contributions span major regional events, charitable organisations, cultural festivals, sporting bodies, and grassroots community groups—reflecting a deep and genuine commitment to the social and economic development of the region. Rather than one-off sponsorships, the Underwood group has consistently provided reliable, long-term funding—often over 10, 20, and even 40+ years—enabling organisations to grow, plan with confidence, and deliver lasting community impact.

This support includes long-standing contributions to cornerstone events such as the Cairns Show (30 years) and Cairns Speedway (46 years), alongside ongoing backing of Relay for Life (23 years) and the Business Liaison Association (21 years). The group has also played a key role in supporting major regional and international events including Cairns Amateurs, Ironman Cairns, Crankworx, Cairns Food and Wine, and the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF).

Importantly, their contributions reflect a strong commitment to cultural diversity and community inclusion, with direct support for events such as the Cairns Italian Festival and Cairns Chinese Festival, alongside grassroots initiatives including the Children's Christmas Party, Girl Guides, Pride, and hospital foundation fundraising efforts.

This level of sustained giving is not only significant in scale, but exceptional in consistency. It reflects a long-standing philosophy of reinvesting in the community that has supported their success. Their contributions have strengthened community organisations, enhanced major events, supported cultural celebration, and contributed meaningfully to the vibrancy and resilience of Cairns.

The Underwood family's legacy is defined not only by business achievement, but by an enduring and measurable commitment to community support—making them highly deserving of recognition.

Peter Underwood

Volunteer work timeline

1981 – 2006

Rotary Club of North Cairns – Member & President (1997 – 1998)

- Active contributor to community service and regional initiatives
- Served as **President**, leading club projects and strengthening engagement
- Supported a wide range of Rotary charitable programs

Recognition:

- Awarded the **Paul Harris Fellow** for outstanding service

Louis Underwood

Volunteer work timeline

1975 – 1980

Boys' Brigade Australia (Presbyterian Church, Cairns) – Founding Captain, 2nd Cairns Company

- Established the 2nd Cairns Boys' Brigade Company
- Youngest Captain appointed at age 16
- Mentored youth and supported personal development

1980 – 2005

Mareeba and District Formula 500 Club – Executive Member

- **Vice President (1980 – 1991)**
- **President (1992 – 2005)**
- Led major motorsport events including:
 - 1988 Bicentennial Classic (Management)
 - 1991 Australian Championship
 - 1999 Australian Championship
 - Queensland Championships (*years to confirm*)
- Played a key role in regional motorsport development

Motorsport and community leadership

Cairns International Speedway

- Committee Member (1978 – 1982)
- **Vice President (1982 – 1990)**
- **President (1991 – 2000)**

Queensland Formula 500 Association

- **Queensland Chief Steward (1987 – 1996)**

Community and regional involvement

Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association

- Committee Member (1996 – 1998)
- **Director (1999 – Present)**
- Management Committee Member (1999 – 2003; 2017 – Present)
- **Vice President (2004 – 2016)**

Cairns and District Kart Club

- Member, New Track Development Committee (2004 – Present)

Honours and recognition

- **Life Member** – Mareeba and District Formula 500 Club
- **Life Member** – Cairns International Speedway
- **Life Member** – Cairns Agricultural Pastoral and Mining Association

Glen Underwood

Volunteer work timeline

1989 – 1990

Queensland Formula 500 Association – President

- Led the state governing body for Formula 500 racing
- Oversaw coordination and development of motorsport activities across Queensland

Motorsport and community leadership

Mareeba and District Formula 500 Club

- Committee Member (*years to confirm*)
- **Vice President** (*years to confirm*)
- **President** (*years to confirm*)
- Organised and conducted the **2025 Queensland Formula 500 Championship**

Cairns International Speedway

- Assistant Treasurer (*years to confirm*)
- **President** (*years to confirm*)

Honours and recognition

- **Life Member** – Mareeba and District Formula 500 Club
- **Life Member** – Cairns International Speedway

Family contribution summary

Across multiple generations, the Underwood family has made a **significant and sustained contribution to community life in Cairns and North Queensland**, particularly in:

- **Youth development** (Boys' Brigade leadership)
- **Community service & charity** (Rotary involvement)
- **Motorsport leadership & governance** (local, state, and national levels)
- **Regional events and agricultural shows**

Together, Peter, Louis, and Glen Underwood represent a legacy of **hands-on leadership, long-term service, and community-building impact** spanning over five decades.

Major donations to the community

Organisation or event	Average annual contribution	Duration	Estimated contribution
Business Liaison Association	\$5,000 per year	21 years	\$105,000
Cairns Amateurs	\$10,000 per year	20 years	\$200,000
Cairns Jockey Club	\$10,000 per year	10 years	\$100,000
Cairns Show	\$26,000 per year	30 years	\$780,000
Relay for Life	\$7,000 per year	23 years	\$161,000
Children's Christmas Party	\$2,000 per year	20 years	\$40,000
Cairns Ironman	\$12,000 per year	15 years	\$180,000
Crankworx	\$10,000 per year	3 years	\$30,000
NU NU Hospital Foundation Fundraiser	\$4,000 per year	2 years	\$8,000
Hospital Foundation	\$7,500 per year	3 years	\$22,500
Cairns Speedway	\$12,000 per year	46 years	\$552,000
Cairns Burnouts	\$6,000 per year	4 years	\$24,000
Cairns and District Girl Guides	\$4,000 per year	3 years	\$12,000
Pride	\$4,000 per year	2 years	\$8,000
Cairns Food and Wine	\$16,000 per year	2 years	\$32,000
Cairns Italian Festival	\$7,500 per year	2 years	\$15,000
Cairns Chinese Festival	<i>Amount to be confirmed</i>		
Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF)	\$40,000 per year	2 years	\$80,000

Estimated total of confirmed contributions: \$2,349,500

Donated by Underwood family businesses to the Cairns community.
