Cyclone Ravages Australia

Outrigger employees step forward to assist those in need

Last Monday, Tropical Cyclone Larry, with winds up to 180 mph, smashed into the coastal community of Innisfail—about 60 miles south of Cairns, Queensland, Australia. The storm, the worst cyclone to hit the region in decades, caused extensive damage. Amazingly, no one was killed and authorities reported that fewer than ten people were taken to the hospital with minor injuries.

Property damage was severe, however. Hotels and resorts in the Innisfail area, along with homes, hospitals, and the area’s sugar and banana plantations, were hit hard. Many people were left homeless, and more than 100,000 lost electrical power. Fallen lines also disrupted communication systems. The storm also caused the temporary shutdown of Cairns International Airport, and rail service between Townsville and Cairns was suspended.

Although our resorts in Cairns, Port Douglas, and Palm Cove escaped relatively unscathed, our Australian ‘ohana mobilized to assist both guests, whose flights were cancelled, and those in need in the surrounding areas.

Our Australian ‘ohana has shown once again that the Aloha Spirit is alive and well Down Under. They have pulled together during this difficult period and are doing a magnificent job of providing service and security for our guests under adverse conditions. I am very proud of each and every member of our team.