

VALLEY VIBES

Volume 10 Edition 7

BULLETIN

March 2021

Guest Speaker 21 April 2021 JOHN BRAITHWAITE Decades of Community Service



Chairman John Braithwaite with Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation representative Erin McCabe at RCFV fundraising dinner, December 2014.

Currently as Pastor on Supply to the Gatton Uniting Church congregation, John was previously Pastor of the Uniting Church at Harrisville and Flinders for 6 years. These were rewarding years for him as it was during this time he married Carolyn, after the loss of his first wife Val in 2014. John has 3 offspring, his eldest son Greg, being the father of Stephanie Van der Westen, (nee Braithwaite), a member of RCFV.

John was Inaugural Chairman of the Board of St John's Anglican College at Forrest Lake, appointed by the Uniting and Anglican Churches in their first Joint Venture. It sought Block Funding for independent education from the Block Grant

Authority in an attempt to establish an Independent Indigenous School. This discontinued for various reasons resulting in the Uniting Church withdrawing from the Joint Venture. John may give an update on the present status of the school.

John shares the dream of Rotarians Neil Summerson and Graham Porter as community representatives for the Rural Residential Village at Harrisville by Wesley Mission, who have purchased 24 hectares of rural land off North Street.

However, John claims his greatest achievement goes back to when he started in publishing with Jacaranda Press and was required to develop a marketing plan for the Macquarie Press and John Wiley, subsequently Jacaranda Wiley in Australia, for their School Dictionary and Major Work.

The most unacknowledged thing which John and Graham have in common is their earliest vocation as electricians, which belongs to an earlier era and best forgotten.



Recent Speakers 3 March 2021**FLINDERS PEAK RURAL FIRE BRIGADE**

Sharon Bewert; Ken McKellar; Thomas Armatage



Ken and Tom demonstrate their fire protection kit



(L to R) Tom, Sharon, Lindy and Ken with Rotary baton

Tom Armatage as Crew Officer introduced the group as volunteer members of the Flinders Peak Rural Fire Brigade. They work between 70 to 80 hours a month under Ken McKellar as Officer in Charge. He outlined the callout procedure once they receive notice of a fire on their phones. Not only do they receive a "callout" in their own right, they are also called to assist the Auxiliary Fire Brigade located at Harrisville. He emphasised that neither attend structural fires but only fight vegetation and grass fires. They generally do not attend house fires but may be called to assist the Ipswich Fire Brigade if required. There are 4,000 to 5,000 people they protect in their area which covers 174,000 Ha.

They are on call to attend a "fireground" 24 hours a day as required and are fortunate to work for companies who release them when called out. Last year Ken and Tom were called to New South Wales where they spent 14 days fighting bush fires. They could also be called out to fight fires anywhere in Queensland.

Tom demonstrated their fire proof jackets which they wear when fighting fires. They resist fire and

protect the wearer from heat, although they will burn. He showed their "bush ranger" fire helmet which do not melt when worn near fire in temperatures of 55 to 60 degrees. Firemen stay hydrated under such conditions by drinking refrigerated bottled water stored in the fire fighting vehicle. He emphasized how important it was for firemen to stay hydrated when fighting fires. The Queensland Ambulance Service are an call to assist firemen when required.

Currently Flinders Peak Fire Brigade has 53 active fire fighters with 33 support personnel. The fire personnel arrived in their main vehicle which they describe as a "medium attack unit" which carries 18,000 litres of water supported by a high pressure pump. Its replacement value is \$240,000. They are supported by a smaller "Nissan Patrol" vehicle worth \$119,000 which currently is due for replacement. Each vehicle must last 20 years. Since 2009 the Queensland Government has contributed to the replacement cost of vehicles. Prior to that the fire brigade had to fundraise themselves to put fuel in the trucks and personnel in the seats. State Government now meets all operational costs, however firemen have to pay for their own helmets which cost \$390 each.

All fire personnel are trained by professional trainers in firefighting and rescue practice. Personnel are not permitted on a fireground unless properly trained which may take 3 days. Hazard reduction burning is undertaken free of charge.

Fire fighting vehicles replenish their water tanks when within their operational district by connecting to hydrants of the reticulated supply. However, if outside the local reticulated water supply area, water is tanked to the fireground to replenish vehicles. Following the meeting we all visited the Camel Farm and the Survey Trig Station outside the Harrisville township. (See below)



Minute Secretary: Therese McInnes
 Club Treasurer: Neil Summerson AM
 Editor: Graham Porter OAM



Hello Everyone,

As we celebrate the rain that we have had in the past few days, one can see the countryside turn from brown to green and what a welcome sight. We also hope it is the beginning of the dam filling rain we so desperately need in our beautiful Valley.

Our 100 Years of Rotary in Australia dinner went off very well at Lizzie's Café where we enjoyed burgers and chips, a typical American and Aussie meal to celebrate the occasion. Our friends from the Flinders Peak Rural Fire Brigade helped us celebrate with their chat about helping our community in times of need. They then escorted us to some vantage points around Harrisville for the photo shoot of the Century so to speak!

We all had interesting learnings from our participation in the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle day last weekend and raised very valuable funds for our Club. We increased our exposure within the Community, by wearing our Polio Plus shirts and Rotary aprons, which brought meaningful discussions with the community. A great team effort all round so well done and many thanks to all who could participate.

We have chosen to participate in the Peak Crossing Bull Ride event in April and Pig Races in June, which will be a great way to join with another local community group to provide food for our community and yet another way of displaying our Rotary values and how our fundraising goes to help fund group projects. Thank you to Steph with a valued connection to the Peak Crossing Social Club, has made these two events possible, in our fundraising calendar.

Till next time,
Rain, rain, rain!!

Be safe, continue your kindness and may your smile make somebody's day!!

X Lindy - President



Club President: Lindy Kirchner
Assistant Governor : Cara Champion
District 9640 Governor: Andy Rajapakse.
Rotary International President: Holger Knaack



Afternoon shift



Morning shift

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

14 Rotarians or Friends of Rotary helped sell sausages at Bunnings West Ipswich on 13th March. We were broken into two teams with Jill team captain in the morning and Lindy in the afternoon. Being the first time we had done this it was a learning experience for those on the first shift.

Bunnings staff set up the BBQ facilities at 7.45am and due to strict Workplace Health and Safety regulations plus COVID restrictions the team members had to follow very strict cleansing and wipe down procedures. This went on throughout the day plus the hourly wipedown of the tables etc, supervised by a Bunnings staff member hourly.

By 9.00 am we had a line up and this continued until the second team arrived at noon. Most customers had gone by 4.00pm and the clean up commenced. After taking account of our costs and supplies left over, the net for the day was \$1142. According to Bunnings this is about the average.

Despite a long day the event gave Rotary exposure to hundreds of Bunnings customers and we all had fun raising money.

Neil Summerson AM - Treasurer

Club Secretary: Jill Surawski
Minute Secretary: Therese McInnes
Club Treasurer: Neil Summerson AM
Editor: Graham Porter OAM

From the
Secretary's Desk

Hello everyone.

Hopefully you have had some lovely rain. Our club has had a busy few weeks celebrating 100 years of Rotary in Australia and holding a sausage sizzle.

First of all we had a lovely meal at Lizzy's kitchen thanks to Niki and her team. Then after our meeting the Flinders Peak Fire Brigade drove around with us for a few photo shots at local well known places to help us with our celebration baton of Rotary's hundred years in Australia. After our photos were taken we passed on the baton to representatives of Boonah Rotary for their celebration dinner the next night. A donation is to be made to the Flinders Peak Fire Brigade as a thank you for their time as volunteers on top of their normal working hours.

Last Saturday we had our first sausage sizzle at Bunnings West Ipswich. This was a very successful day for our club, with lots of team work and laughs along the way. Our members were able to take either a morning or afternoon shift which worked out very well. We hope to be able to obtain another day there shortly. Thank you everyone for your participation with the sausage sizzle.

We hope you all get this much needed rain for our community. Until next time stay safe and healthy.

Till next time,

Jill - Secretary

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Date	Birthday	Anniversary
Apr 1	Lindy Kirchner	
Apr 10		Scott & Cara
Apr 11	Thyrlene Devin	
Apr 20		Duncan & Mary Mcl
May 1		Andrew & Ann Kay
May 3	Stephanie Vanderwestern	
May 6	Beve Ward	
May 13	John Brent	
May 25	Ross Blanch	
May 30		Neil & Jenny Summerson

Club President: Lindy Kirchner
 Assistant Governor : Cara Champion
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VISIT TO HARRISVILLE STATE SCHOOL

The Harrisville State School recently held an assembly to present their senior students with badges and shirts.

Principal Mrs Michelle White invited a representative from RCFV to attend, in an acknowledgement of our Club's end of year \$100 bursary to a selected student.

Marjorie Porter was pleased to have the opportunity to visit her 'old school' and spoke for a few minutes to encourage the children with various qualities of leadership – setting a good example, respect, teamwork – and mentioned our Club's ANZAC Day Book presentation, along with the annual Bursary. .

Mr Jon Krause, Member for Scenic Rim, also congratulated the school leaders and presented the children with their badges and shirts



(Above) Marjorie speaking to students.

(Below) Principal Michelle White and Jon Krause MP

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 Club Treasurer: Neil Summerson AM
 Editor: Graham Porter OAM



It's a Laugh!



Meeting Program and Duty Roster: March - April

DUTY ROSTER	Wed 31 March '21	Wed 7April '21	Wed 21 April '21	Fri 23 April '21
Duty Office	Pres Lindy Kirchner	Pres Lindy Kirchner		
Chairman/ Reflections			Neil Summerson	
Meeting Venue & Time	Viney's Place Harrisville	Lindy's Cottage	TBA	Peak Crossing Hotel
Program / Guest	Social evening	Flinders Peak Rural Fire Service	Guest Speaker John Braithwaite	Bull Ride Night