

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

PORT MACQUARIE HASTINGS BRANCH INC

ConnectionS/Newsletter

October 2024

The
Hope
Community

24/25 CHARITY AUCTION

On September 25th, 28 of our members attended the "Lions Den" at Port Macquarie to run our Annual Charity Auction supporting this year's recipient, "The Hope Community". We all enjoyed a day of fun and laughter with BYO Nibbles and wine to loosen the purse strings, and a gold coin admission to cover the rental of the hall.



We all interacted with an early lunch after bringing our unwanted goods to be auctioned. It really was a matter of "one man's junk is another man's treasure".

Our Auctioneer, Paul Cooney assisted by President Bill presided over the proceedings ably assisted by our hard working committee.

Everyone brought items of all descriptions including handbags, dresses, bowls, games, mirrors, heaters, puzzles, garden equipment and much more.



Lunch started at around noon with an array of food and drinks shared by everyone which got us all in the mood. It was lovely to see that no-one sat on their own and everyone mixed. The auction started at 1.00pm after an introduction by President Bill, and our very fine auctioneer Paul Cooney. The rules were set, and all bidders had a number recording winning bids.

HOPE FOUNDATION CHARITY AUCTION CONTINUED



Without our last year's model, Marlene here, we had to improvise.



A minimal amount of unsold goods was left as a donation to our charity, and we raised approximately \$578.00.

As the organizer, I would like to thank the members, and our fantastic committee for their commitment and input on the day and the Lions Club for the use of their facilities.

The system worked well, and we were cleaned up and out by 2.30pm.

As you can see from the photos, it was a fun, well organized day thank to our travelling Vice President James together with a great committee.



By President Bill

OUR SEPTEMBER GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker at our September General Meeting was **Jenny Knowles**, Welfare Manager and Counsellor representing our Charity for this year, **The Hope Foundation**.

Jenny was assisted by Pastor **Mark Vander Veer**, pastor of **The Hope Church**.

Jenny gave us an in-depth talk on all aspects and the importance of volunteering. She spoke of the fact that the main purpose of volunteering was not just a 9-5 vocation, but a 24-hour, 7 day a week job. The Foundation has been operating for 20 years and has 3 op-shops in the Port Macquarie Hastings area that have raised \$150,000 selling secondhand clothing and a range of household items. They also contribute goods to people who are in dire need. They also provide food and shower facilities free to that same group.

Jenny covered the fact that she was in her younger days, an airline stewardess with QANTAS, and this was where her interest in Counselling and welfare for others began. We noted that she always got in trouble for spending so much time talking to the passengers.

Mark followed up with a history of The Hope Church, started with a small congregation of 30, in Ruins Way. He started out in High School Ministry and saw the need for an op-shop to create a family environment for the many homeless and underprivileged young people. Many of them kept working well after they had finished their re-hab. Jenny also commented on the talk given by Wynne Eldridge on her volunteering in the Northern area of Australia with her husband Brian.

Both our speakers were thanked by Morva Belot to the applause of those present.



By Sue Scott

TRIVIA CORNER

Q1. What is the brightest spot on earth?

Q2. The energy from one lightning bolt could toast how many slices of bread.

Q3 There are 4 countries that have National Anthems with no lyrics. Name them.

Your answers will be checked at the October General Meeting.

ONE THING ABOUT ME –WYNNE ELDRIDGE



September's 'One Thing about Me' was given by Wynne Eldridge and what an interesting career life Wynne has led.

In 1964 Wynne arrived in Darwin as a freshly minted nurse. NT administration sent her and 2 other nurses to Papunya which is basically in the middle of nowhere. Patrols would gather desert aboriginals and bring them to the Aboriginal Reserve. In this area there were several different tribes with different customs, art, culture and language. This often resulted in fighting with varying degrees of injuries.

Wynne's duties ranged from patching injuries, teaching hygiene and how to put clothes on, to feeding 73 infants under 5 and a whole lot in between.

Wynne told a few stories of some of the incidents that happened and had to be handled. Some were amusing while others were quite sad. Wynne and her husband, Brian left in 1970.

They returned a couple times later to find that the conditions hadn't improved for the aboriginals. The civilizing and re-education plan was a plan of cruelty.

They made some wonderful friends while working in this beautiful setting of Papunya and realized that these lovely people were separated from civilization by only a few kilometres, and yet by thousands of years.

By Leonie White

My kids laugh because they think i'm crazy 😊
I laugh because they don't know it's Hereditary



YOUR 24/25 COMMITTEE

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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Gavan PEAD

Pamela PEAD

Cynthia BRADY

Carol CASTIGLIONI



TIME FOR A LAUGH

A husband and wife had an Italian Au Pau called Gina. The husband couldn't help himself and started to have an affair with the beautiful Gina. Every time his wife was away, the husband and Gina would romp around the house, in the garden, even in the bedroom, making mad, passionate love.

A little while later Gina went to the husband in tears and tells him that she's pregnant. "What shall I do? I don't want to tell your wife, and disrupt the family, and I can't afford to lose my job".

The husband tells Gina not to worry, leave everything to him, but she must go back to Italy and have the baby. "I'll tell my wife that you have to go back to Italy to visit your sick parents, and so will be gone for a while".

He promised that he would send her money every month so that she could look after the baby.

"Oh, thank you" says Gina. "You are a good man, but how will you know when the baby is born?" So, the husband says "Just send me a postcard and write on it "Spaghetti" so that I'll know that the baby has been born".

So, a few months later, a postcard is delivered to the house from Italy, and the wife picks it up and says to her husband "Oh for heaven's sake. Somebody's sent this to the wrong address. It's a strange postcard from Italy". The husband grabs the postcard and says "What do you mean a strange postcard. Let me have a look at it".

He suddenly goes very quiet, and starts to tremble as he reads the postcard, which says "spaghetti, spaghetti, spaghetti – 2 with meatballs and one without"!!

By Anne Jackson.

MONTHLY BOOK REVUE

Outback Secrets – Author Rachael Johns

After a near fatal flying incident Ag. Pilot Henrietta Forward arrives home early to Bunyip Bay. Her mother tries everything to keep her daughter safely at home. Liam, the owner of the local Pub, has heard it all as the locals love to confide their secrets with him, but no-one knows his tragic past. Henri and Liam form a liaison to hide their secrets.

Will Henri's demons and Liam's traumatic past prove too great a barrier to love.

By Anne Jackson

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



Together We Can Make A Difference

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10 September 2024

Dear Members,

We would like to take this opportunity to formally say thank you, for nominating the Willing & Able Foundation as your chosen charity for the 23/24 financial year.

The \$2,250 donation is incredibly generous and will be used to directly benefit our supported employees and participants.

Support from our local community is incredibly important to the Foundation and helps us to continue to provide services at the highest level for our participants and supported employees.

We are extremely proud of our Team and our Brand and love that others in our local community obviously feel the same.

Together we can make a difference.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Penny Poulton'.

Penny Poulton
General Manager
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