

The Australian Rechabite

Issue 1
March, 2013

Print Post Approved: PP424022/2553

Inside

- 2 Editorial
- 3 Letters to the Editor
- 3 Youthful non-drinking
- 4 Victorian News
- 5 Region Meeting Dates
- 6 IOR Caravan & Holiday Club
- 7 Region Meeting News
- 8 Queensland News
- 8 Touring with Norm McIvor
- 9 Queensland Annual Report
- 10 Household Fair & Bowls
- 11 Qld Dist Christmas Party
- 11 Proposed Social Activities
- 12 New South Wales News
- 13 Tent No. 20 Goes West
- 13 Jottings from Malcolm Campbell
- 14 Strictly Personal
- 15 Obituaries
- 16 Temperance Topics

Rechabites:

*People who enjoy an
alcohol-free lifestyle*



The Australian **Rechabite**

is the official journal of the
Incorporated
Rechabite Fraternal Societies
in Australia

Keeping Rechabites in touch



New South Wales

District Secretary
Bro John W Dixon
Post Office Box 305,
EASTWOOD NSW 2122

Telephone: (02) 9801 0585
Email: jwdixon8@bigpond.com

Queensland

District Secretary
Bro R (Bob) A Cook
6 Colette Street
WAKERLEY Qld 4154

Telephone: (07) 3893 2499
Email: qldsecretary@
australian rechabites.org.au

Victoria

State Secretary
Sis Gwenda Martyn
Post Office Box 4532
KNOX CITY CENTRE VIC 3152

Telephone: (03) 5177 8144
Email: alan-gwenda@
vic.australis.com.au

Copy:

Material for inclusion in this magazine
should be addressed to

The Editor
Post Office Box 160
REDBANK Qld 4301

Email: raeian@optusnet.com.au
Telephone: (07) 3139 1505

**Peace and Plenty
the reward of
Temperance**



Editorial

PARDON me for retelling what most of you know, but I was so encouraged by a **Letter to the Editor** that I cannot resist the repetition. Sis Jones' remarks bring back good memories.

I am a fifth generation Methodist, and also a Christian. My mother, who in England had been Secretary of a Juvenile Rechabite Tent encouraged me to attend the Band of Hope meetings at the Kennedy Terrace Church, Red Hill, Brisbane, begun by Sis Ivy Oates, now Biggs. It was because of Ivy's teaching that I signed the pledge at age 10 and by age 16 became a member of IOR *Excelsior Tent No.14* Paddington. Ivy, was also one of my Sunday School teachers who is still with us. She is a very special lady!

Becoming a Methodist Lay Preacher in 1951 assisting at Latrobe Terrace Church, part of Paddington Circuit, I came across parents of young people who would not allow their children to join us 'to be "brain washed" by the Church'.

Presenting a message guaranteeing Eternal Life as well as a happy earthly life by heeding the message, "Do not get drunk with wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit" - of God, seemed to me wise counsel not "brain washing".

We know of many who were not allowed to be so "brain washed" who today have their brains soaked with alcohol and end up with no life; earthly or eternal.

As our new member writes, her experience as a nurse allowed her to see first hand the devastating effects of alcohol in the human body. Can we continue to be silent?

Ivy is just eight years older than I, yet as a faithful teenager she put me on the right path. Today, we need many more like Ivy, teaching children the dangers of alcohol.

The TV add showing a Dad sending his young son to the frig for another beer is teaching the wrong message to this young mind, but how many parents are heeding this message?

Regrettably, as a Society, our voice is weaker than it used to be, but as individuals, let us shout to the roof tops the blessings, the peace and fullness of life that can be had enjoying an alcohol-free lifestyle.

I would encourage all our Victorian members to try to win the \$100 Gift Voucher on offer for the one who signs up the greatest number of new members this year. Perhaps NSW and Queensland could think of a similar venture so that our voice may be stronger.

I'm proud of my 64 year association with IOR, 38 of those years, next July, as a member of staff beginning at the NSW IOR District Office and that has continued in retirement back here in Queensland. I shall not be silent while ever I have a voice.

Vivian A Belcher
Editor

A WORD OF EXPLANATION For our Queensland members

RECEIVING two annual membership accounts a week apart has caused some concern for our members but came about because our mailing house forgot to include the reply paid envelope in the first mailing.

They used the original data base to send a second mailing (with the envelope included) at their expense, including the postal charges. Unfortunately, errors do sometimes occur in the best laid plans.

The mailing house we use for all Queensland mailings, i.e., the accounts and calendars as well as the Australia wide mail out of **The Australian Rechabite** is a small charitable organisation started by a group of concerned parents of disabled or disadvantaged children to provide them with some meaningful employment.

This is their first error in the three years we have used them so trust you can excuse them for any confusion you may have experienced. ■



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post Office Box 160, REDBANK QLD 4301
or E-mail: raeian@optusnet.com.au

Below is a letter sent to Sis Gwenda Martyn, Victorian State Secretary, by one who has just become a member of the Order and has given permission for it to be printed in TAR.

Dear Secretary,

I was pleased my husband was able to access your address on the internet and learn that there is still a "Rechabite Fraternity". My mother belonged to the Rechabites and left me her medallion on a chain when she passed on.

I am writing regarding my concern re the continuing escalation of crime and abuse – usually alcohol fuelled. As a Methodist (before they united) our denomination was very outspoken about the effects of alcohol and gambling. Sadly, now, most voices are silent and as a Grandmother I am very concerned about the future of our youth.

I have written to our Uniting Church Office to voice my concern.

We are inundated on all sides by the necessity for alcohol to increase enjoyment. Most television adverts promote it.

Most crimes are alcohol fuelled, whether in houses or at social events and our road toll is deplorable, yet still most voices remain silent. So any suggestions re advertising the dangers of this serious substance would be appreciated by my family and myself. My husband and I worship now at a very active Baptist Church filled with young families and children, but I must admit our memories and love remain with what was once a denomination that because of its outspokenness was labelled Wowsers.

I have no idea why today's youth, which is very highly educated and living in an amazing technology driven age doesn't realise they are lining the pockets of those driven by greed and with no concern about the terrible effects binge drinking and alcohol are causing. It took a long time before the Tobacco Industry was taken to task and as an ex-nurse, I know the devastating effects alcohol has on the body.

Thank you for still being in existence. I wish you well for your future.

Vivienne Jones
Victoria.

On an Historical Note

Dear Sir,

I am a 4th generation Rechabite. My Great Grandfather, William Chalmers was initiated into Avoca Lodge No.76 in 1874 and came to Essendon in 1900.

Since then, my Grandfather, Norman Gordon Chalmers and my father, Herbert Norman Chalmers were members of the Essendon Tent No.264, my Grandfather being Treasurer from 1913 -1969 (56 years) and my father was Secretary from 1952 -1973. The family therefore has had continuous membership of the IOR for 138 years.

We hold the original Pledge Book of the Essendon Tent at the Essendon Historical Society. It commenced in 1852.

Bob Chalmers
Essendon Victoria

KEEP

WRITING



An English Report shows

Youthful non-drinking -

alive & well but socially invisible

MANY young people in the UK drink little alcohol or do not drink at all, but public policy is based on the assumption that youth drinking is the norm, an assumption reinforced by stereotyped media portrayals of binge drinking.

Now a new study from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation casts light on a social phenomenon the existence of which is barely recognised, let alone understood. The study examines the lives of young people who drink little or no alcohol, and finds that:

getting drunk is not an automatic rite of passage for young people

young people who drink little or no alcohol tend to prefer activities where drinking alcohol rarely plays a role

the immediate effects of drinking alcohol (e.g., hangovers) concern young people more than longer-term health effects; and

young people believe alcohol

education is based on the assumption that young people drink. They want 'not drinking' to be presented as a legitimate option.

You may download the report at:
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/positive-choice-young-people>

Reprinted with permission from
Alcohol Alert Summer 2012

The Editors are not responsible for the views expressed in contributions, articles or communications.

**CLOSING DATE FOR
ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE IS**

15th July 2013



A Message from the Victorian State President

FIRSTLY, I am very proud to be your new State President for the next twelve months. I must pay tribute to Bro Graeme Hicks for his devotion to our cause, both as State President and to the State Committee in general, over so many years.

Secondly, my aim this year is to gain new members. Our membership continues to fall, mainly unfortunately, due to death. At each monthly Committee meeting names of deceased members are recorded and I am yet to hear of new members being enrolled. We MUST find new members, as I believe "the bigger we are the more we will be heard".

Surely each one of us knows of a friend or relative who would be prepared to sign our pledge of abstinence. The fee is not high, just \$20.00 per person and \$30.00 for a family. If you know of anyone who will fit the bill, then let our Secretary, Sis Gwenda know, and she will forward the necessary form. Her phone number is on your calendar.

Don Legge
State President

Victorian News

2012 Victorian Annual Conference

THE Annual State Conference was held in Shepparton at the Big Valley Lakeside Motor Inn on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th October 2012. The Conference was held over two half days with the President's Night on the Tuesday evening. The Conference was held in the rooms at the Motel, with the Motel also accommodating all our delegates.

On the Tuesday afternoon, two people who are involved with Teen Challenge, spoke to us telling us how their lives had been changed thanks to Teen Challenge. Teen Challenge owns a rural property where men can go to rid their lives of drugs and alcohol.

Both men spoke of times in their lives when at their lowest ebb, and then how they both are now well on the way to living a normal life again without drugs or alcohol.

During the Conference it was moved that the IOR donate \$2,000.00 to Teen Challenge to assist with the work they are doing.

After dinner on the Tuesday night we were entertained by a singer and a musician who enthralled us for nearly two hours with beautiful singing and lovely music. Many people personally thanked the singer after the evening for such a wonderful night.

The new State Committee that was elected at this Conference is listed

below. It was great to have a younger member for Deputy State President, we all wish Bro Geoff Legge well as he starts his journey through the chairs of the State Committee.

The Conference in 2013 will also be held in Shepparton.

The minutes of the Conference will be available to anyone who is interested by contacting the State Secretary.

Fraternal News

It is with deep regret that we have been advised of the death of Sis Nancy Flett, wife of Bro John Flett. Nancy was well known in IOR circles as she always accompanied John to Conferences, Tent and Region meetings. Our condolences have been sent to John and his family.

At Conference, a Certificate of Appreciation was mentioned (and will be presented) to Bro Ivan Stanway for his many years as Secretary of *Geelong Tent No.58* and also to Bro Bill Chandler (yet to be presented also) for his years as Secretary of *Tent No.100* and Secretary Region 1 (Salford Park).

Also at Conference, 2 Distinguished Service Awards were presented, one to Sis Joyce Wallace and one to Bro Ron Warwick.

These awards are the highest award that anyone in our Order can receive for distinguished service. ►►►

Win \$100 Gift Voucher (of your choice)

The Victorian State Committee is having a Competition with a \$100 Gift Voucher prize to be given to the Victorian Member who introduces the most new members from 1st January to 11th October 2013.

The winner will be announced at our next Annual Conference in Shepparton.

Help your Order grow! Invite family and friends to be come members.

Nomination forms available from Gwenda Martyn, call (03) 5177 8144



Sis Joyce Wallace and Bro Ron Walker receive their Distinguished Service Awards from Bro Graeme Hicks

As Bro Ron Pratt was not able to be present at our Conference, his Past State President's medallion was presented to him at the Region 6 meeting. Thanks were given to Ron for the years of service he has spent as a member of the State Committee.

Victorian State Committee

State President:

Don Legge

Deputy State President:

Geoff Legge

Past State President:

Graeme Hicks

State Officers:

Allan Clark

David McGee

State Secretary:

Gwenda Martyn

State Treasurer:

Innes Russell

Temperance Resolution

The following Temperance Resolution was passed by the 2012 Conference.

"We, the undersigned, attending the Annual Conference of the Rechabite Fraternity (Vic) Inc. in Shepparton, wholeheartedly endorse the National Press "Real Heroes Walk Away" campaign, agreeing that youth violence, resulting from over indulgence in alcohol has spiralled out of control and must be curtailed.

The Australian Medical Association conducted a National Summit "on alcohol marketing to young people"



of Reference, e.g.:

- an analysis of the extent to which Australian young and old are exposed to alcohol advertising and marketing.
- The marketing techniques and impact of the new and emerging social media of alcohol advertising
- A focus on the extent of the targeting of this sponsorship to secondary and tertiary students
- use of powers to require alcohol and associated agencies to provide annual advertising promotion and marketing expenditure.

We, who strongly advocate "an alcohol free lifestyle", agree with the September Summits contention that there should be a National review on the impact of alcohol and promotion on the attitudes and behaviours of young Australians regarding their alcohol consumption."

Ref: National Summit on Alcohol Marketing to Young People. Release 20.9.2012



Left to Right - Bro Innes Russell (State Treasurer), Sis Gwenda Martyn (State Secretary), Bro Alan Clark, Bro Graeme Hicks (Past State President), Bro Don Legge (State President), Bro Geoff Legge (Deputy State President), Bro David McGee

Region Meeting Dates for 2013 - Victoria

| Date | Region | Contact & Tel. No. | District |
|--------------------------|--------|------------------------|------------|
| February Sunday 10th | 4/5 | N Robilliard 9580 8614 | Mordialloc |
| March Sunday 17th | 7 | J Flett 9306 4968 | Harcourt |
| March Wednesday 20th | 9 | L Jukes 5762 5584 | Kyabram |
| April Saturday 27th | 6 | G Martyn 5177 8144 | Morwell |
| May Sunday 5th | 4/5 | N Robilliard 9580 8614 | Mordialloc |
| September Wednesday 18th | 9 | L Jukes 5762 5584 | Kyabram |
| October Sunday 20th | 7 | J Flett 9306 4968 | Harcourt |
| October Saturday 26th | 6 | G Martyn 5177 8144 | Morwell |
| November Sunday 3rd | 4/5 | N Robilliard 9580 8614 | Mordialloc |

IOR Caravan & Holiday Club

WITH two "first timers", 37 members set off on what was to be a most enjoyable five day Coach Tour, beginning Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November 2012. We were heading for Phillip Island, the Mornington Peninsula and Gippsland.

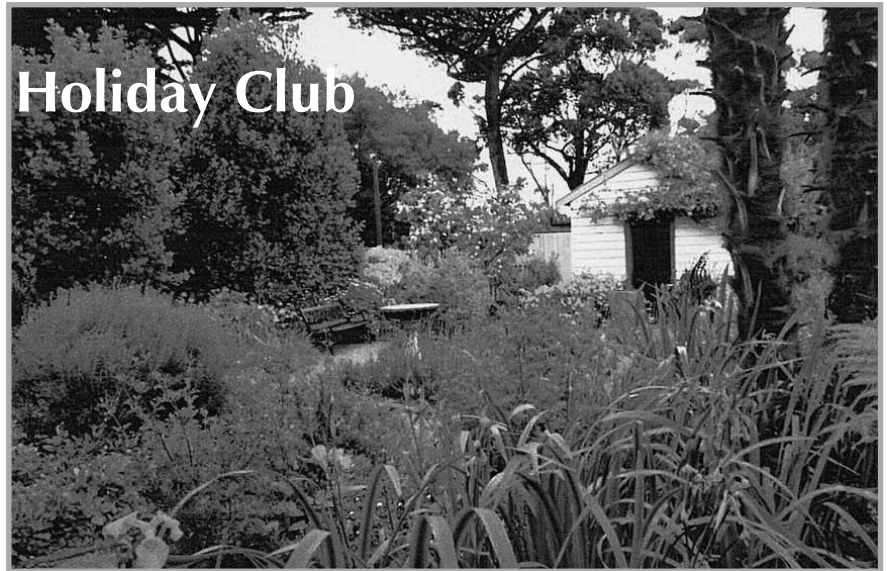
Our first stop was at Gumbuya Park for scones, jam and cream and drinks, to give us the energy to play mini-golf or a walk through the Park. Some of us opted for a tractor driven trailer tour around the park track.

We observed the Park's size, the water race (not in use), a go-cart track and native trees. Yes, we did see a koala perched in a tree and a large wombat burrow. The Park is a reserve for the koalas. It is a long time since some of us have enjoyed a camp oven lunch.

By 2.00pm we were ready for the next part of our trip. Pelicans live around the San Remo area and at a set time are fed for the benefits of them and photo opportunities of the tourists. The old wooden bridge from San Remo has been replaced with a modern highway one, from whose top one has a magnificent view of the immediate area.

Our eagerly awaited next stop was Penny's Chocolate Factory. We were shown how chocolates were made, its history and the skills of the workers, who use Belgian chocolate as the basic ingredient. We saw a man-sized "statue" of David and a mural of "Dame Edna" made from chocolate. A miniature village made of chocolate must have been made by very patient skilled workers. All that one could expect to see in an old style village was there.

We moved on to Cowes, the busy tourist centre of Phillip Island, which became our base for the next few days.



Gardens on Churchill Island

Day two, saw us visiting notable tourist attractions. The Nobbies is a geological feature of small "island" rocks, which have become a home for thousands of seals. Seals can travel some considerable distance out into Bass Strait gathering up a food supply for their pups. They do not go into Tasmanian waters.

The protected environment of the Koala Conservation Centre gave many of us the opportunity to handle and enjoy a personal encounter with these beautiful animals. A fitting end of the morning part of our tour.

Like the Koalas we too must be fed before tackling the "Seal Watching Cruise". Seal Rocks was as close as one could wish be. Young seals swam around our boat, displaying no fear of our presence. It was a wonderful experience.

Back on land we explored the rugged coastline of the board-walks used to protect the soil from human destruction.

With such good weather in the evening we went to the Penguin Parade where we saw little penguins carrying out their nightly ritual, waddling across the beach to their burrows.

On Wednesday 31st we departed the island and after passing through small

country towns enroute we reached Wonthaggi. This town provided employment for hundreds of miners who dug their way through the coal-fields, providing fuel for the steam engines across the State until diesel engines replaced them by 1968. As a tourist attraction, nine (9) tunnels are available for inspection.

Dairy farming is vital to our country, providing us with food, meat and milk, thus making places like Leongatha so important for our survival. Strzelecki, who was in the area for a while, was a remarkable geologist amongst other things. During his short time in Australia made his mark on our history.

Reaching Mirboo North, we had lunch at Café Escargot, which was followed by a peaceful walk through the escargot (*French: snail*) enclosures and outdoor raising beds. It was ►►



Lunch at Café Escargot

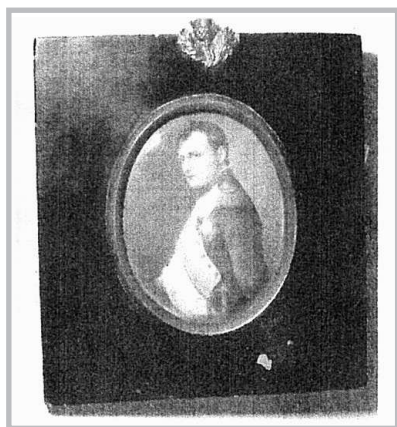
a new experience for many of us.

Thursday, 1st November, brought a weather change. It became windy, cold with some rain, but we made our way to Churchill Island. This is a working farm with Highland cattle, sheep, ducks, chickens and Clydesdale horses. Two rangers took our two groups around speaking on the highlights of the island.

During the afternoon some people chose to have a free afternoon while others decided to visit the Vietnam War Museum, a most interesting place and enjoyed by all those who visited.

The next day, (our last) we travelled through Mornington Peninsula and visited "Briars Park" at Mt Martha, one of the earliest farms in the area, that was settled by Alexander Balcombe in 1846 and farmed by Balcombe descendants until 1975.

The Balcombe family had a very close association with Napoleon Bonaparte before coming to Australia and have many pictures and some of his furniture in the homestead, along with several gifts he had given the family.



A framed miniature of Napoleon on porcelain by Gerard

So ended a wonderful tour that was enjoyed by all.

OUR NEXT TRIP

by the Holiday Club is from

**Monday 18th March to
Friday 22nd March 2013**

where we will visit Bayside Geelong and Surrounds.

For further details on trips contact

The Secretary,

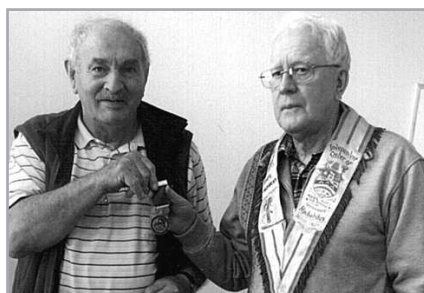
Sis Joyce Wallace on (03) 9807 4044

Region Meeting News

Region 6 (Gippsland)

OUR gathering in October 2012 was once again very successful. Starting with a meeting, then breaking for lunch, we continued with an afternoon programme that included a speaker to entertain us.

During the meeting a Past State President's medallion was presented to Bro Ron Pratt who was not able to be present at Conference. Thanks were given to Bro Ron for the years that he spent as member of the State committee.



Bro Ron Pratt (left) being presented with a Past President's medallion by the State President, Bro Don Legge.

After a delicious lunch prepared by the Morwell Neighbourhood House staff, we had a very interesting presentation by our State President, Bro Don Legge, of a trip that he and his wife Rhondda had been on in 2012, sailing from Darwin to Broome in W.A. The boat called into many places along the way and the people on board explored each stopping place. You would have had to be reasonably fit to do this trip. Our thanks to Don for such an interesting presentation.

Region 6 is reasonably strong with members coming from a distance to attend. This meeting is sometimes the only IOR meeting that some of our members can attend, so it is of great importance to them.

Our next meeting is on

Saturday 27th April 2013.

Please contact Gwenda Martyn on

5177 8144 for catering purposes if you wish to attend.

**Gwenda Martyn
Region 6 Secretary**

Region 7 (Central Victoria)

THE meeting, scheduled for 21st October 2012, had to be cancelled. However, it is still planned to have the next meeting on 17th March 2013 in Harcourt at 12.30pm as scheduled.

With deep regret we have to advise the passing of two regular attendees since the last meeting. They were Sis Winsome Cordy on 7th September and Sis Nancy Flett on 2nd October.

Sis Winsome had been the Secretary of Harcourt Tent from May 1956 till it merged with Bendigo Tent in 1998. Her ancestors, the Warrens, had also been stalwart members of the Order. She was interred in Harcourt Cemetery on the 14th followed by a Memorial Service in the Harcourt Uniting Church.

Sis Nancy was the wife of our Secretary John Flett and was well known in the IOR as she always accompanied John to Conferences, Region and Tent Meetings. Nancy's organising skills shone as she assisted with the arrangements for the three (3) Annual Conferences presided over by John, and in providing the food at the last two (2) Region Meetings.

Nancy was interred in the Eaglehawk Cemetery following a Service at Oak Park Baptist Church on 12th October.

As hard as it will be, John says, "We must move on, so do not forget the next meeting for March 17".

For catering purposes, notification of your intention to be present at that meeting is required by calling either Betty on 5473 4523, or Audrey on 5339 1157 or John on 9306 4968 by March 10th for **Sunday 17th March 2013.**

Please come along and make the get-together worthwhile.

**On behalf of John Flett
Region 7 Secretary**

The District Chief Ruler's Report

AS I write this message, it's a time to reflect on the year that's been and to look with anticipation to the possibilities of the New Year.

In her address to the Annual District Council, Sis Margaret Andrews, District Chief Ruler, summarised the achievements of the Order in 2012 and highlighted its changing programs due to declining membership, age, death and personal circumstances of members. In contrast, it was wonderful to send birthday greetings to four members who became centenarians; one whose membership dates from 1928.

As I begin my two year term as DCR, it's interesting to consider what the future may hold. As an organisation we will be challenged to adjust our programs to meet the changing needs of our members or to be more creative in the way we encourage others in the principles of abstinence.

I am delighted to report that the District Executive decided during 2012 to look at ways of encouraging children and young people's interest in the Rechabite movement, particularly engaging the extended family of current members. A working group has met on several occasions to discuss and report on possible initiatives.

The District Christmas Party held on 8th December proved to be the first opportunity to act on these discussions. Over 60 adults and children from the south east corner of the State gathered to enjoy a time of fun and fellowship as they participated in a Christmas Party with a delicious meal, games, quizzes, dancing and of course, a visit by Santa.

Before the Christmas Party concluded, the children and young people were presented with Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their willingness to participate in activities of the Order throughout the year. A

'goodies' bag, provided by DrugArm, was made available for each family, thus reminding members and guests of the important work of this organisation and the financial support given to it by IOR Queensland. Everyone was challenged to consider how they might encourage family and friends to live a healthy, alcohol and drug free lifestyle and to become members of the IOR.

A warm thank you is extended to members and their guests who made the night such a success.

Whether we want them or not, the New Year will bring new challenges; whether we seize them or not, the New Year will bring new opportunities. ~ Michael Josephson.

Remember - It's up to you and me to respond.

I trust that 2013 will be a year of rich blessings for you and your family. The District Executive looks forward to seeing you at the activities that are planned for 2013, the details of which may be found on page 11 of this issue of TAR.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kilah DCR

The Queensland Annual District Council Report 2012 *Continued from page 9*

scenes by Sis and Rev Kilah, particularly for the members of Annerley and David Livingstone Tents.

With the meeting drawing to a close, Sis Andrews invited Bro Ron E. Andersen LM, PDCR, with the assistance of Bro. V. A. Belcher PCR, (NSW & Qld), to carry out the installation of the members of the District Executive.

The new District Chief Ruler, Sis Cynthia Kilah then closed the meeting at 4.30 pm with an invitation to remain for afternoon tea. ■

Queensland News

Touring with Norm McIvor



A Day at the Bay

WITH a happy crowd of thirty-six (36) on board, after a pick up at Booval and Ebbw Vale, we were heading off for a day out to Redland Bay in a Highway Coach driven by our friend Gordon. It was Thursday, 15th November and our last tour for 2012. Leaving the Ipswich Motorway we drove down the Logan Motorway through Carbrook and on to the Bay. We stopped over at Victoria Point for morning tea where the wind was blowing a gale and it was cold.

Nevertheless we enjoyed our morning tea and coffee break and a look over the bay, which was a pleasant change for us "inlanders".

Rejoining the coach we headed for Kings Country Nursery for a look at the nursery, had a walk through its rain-forest, which desperately needed some rain, then some of us enjoyed hand feeding some farm animals – goats, geese, sheep and a horse, while the rest of us sat round small tables enjoying the nursery gardens.

Back on the coach, we drove over to Wellington Point to the Redlands Sporting Club for lunch, which was first class. All enjoyed their meal.

After a very relaxing day, we headed back home arriving at Brassall around 3.45pm.

We thank Cora and George Williams for all the work they put into arranging these great trips for our IOR Members and friends. I would also like to thank Gordon for safe trips.

Trust you will join us on our 2013 Day Tours planned for March, May, July, September and again in November. ■

The Queensland Annual District Council Report 2012

THE Annual District Council incorporating the Annual General Meeting of the Independent Order of Rechabites Queensland District No. 87 Inc. took place on Saturday 13 October 2012 in the Uniting Church Hall, Kadumba Street, Yeronga.

This was our fifth annual meeting conducted under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and was chaired by the District Chief Ruler Sis. Margaret Andrews. Seventeen members were in attendance and we thank those members who considered it important enough to give up an afternoon to attend.

Following the Address by the District Chief Ruler, the Statutory requirements of the Act were conducted in the Annual General Meeting with the annual financial statements being tabled, discussed and adopted. Included in the AGM was the declaration of officers for the biennial period 2012-2014, there being an insufficient number of nominations to hold elections.

Sis Andrews, DCR, declared the following members in their nominated position.

Sis Cynthia Kilah, *Annerley Tent No. 67* automatically progressed to the chair of District Chief Ruler, having served the past term as District Deputy Ruler.

Sis Glenys Harbottle, *Hearts of Oak Tent No.29*, was declared as District Deputy Ruler.

Sis Margaret Andrews, *David Livingstone Tent No.5*, having honourably served as District Chief Ruler for the past two years, was installed as Immediate Past District Chief Ruler.

Bro Bob Cook, *Annerley Tent No.67* continues as District Secretary while **Bro Peter Henderson**, *Annerley Tent No.67* continues as District Treasurer.

Two District Officers were declared, **Bro Noel Andrews**, *David Livingstone*

Tent No. 5 and **Bro Jim MacDonald**, *Star of Mackay Tent No.21*.

Providing an opportunity for debate, was the Annual Report of the District Executive and the Report of the Rechabite Social Activities Committee, both of which were on the agenda after the completion of the statutory business required by the Act.

These reports were presented and discussed after which Sis Andrews moved onto the next agenda item which was consideration of the annual membership fee, advising that at the District Executive budget meeting in April, Bro Henderson noted that with a projected deficit in excess of \$15,000.00, it would be reasonable to increase the annual membership fee to offset some of the increased costs and suggested an increase up to \$20.00 a member.

Bro Cook advised that as a guide for discussion at the District Executive held prior to the Council, he had prepared a short statistical report on membership trends since 2009, noting also that he did not believe that the membership fee should be increased and had provided some alternative strategies to rein in expenditure.

Bro Cook then summarised his report for the Council after which Bro Henderson outlined his views which, he added, were based on his desire to attempt to, as closely as possible, match income to expenditure.

As discussion progressed with no firm direction, Sis Andrews suggested that the resolution from the Executive meeting be provided to members which Bro Cook noted was **RESOLVED** that the matter be referred to Council

with information from the report provided and unless there developed strong support for an increase from the floor, that the current fee of \$16.50 remain for 2013. Further that the District Executive begin a line by line examination of all budgeted expenses with a view to reducing static and optional expenditure. After considering this resolution, the Council agreed with the sentiment of the Executive resolution and moved accordingly.

Moving on, Sis Andrews advised that the District Executive had received nominations for Life Membership elevations for the following members;

Sis Isobel Cecily Walker

Hearts of Oak Tent No. 29, and

Bro Ronald Evans Andersen

Annerley Tent No. 67

and which have been approved for



*Sis Andrews (centre) with
Sis I. C. Walker and Bro R. N. Andersen.*

recommendation to this Annual District Council. Both recommendations were adopted unanimously after which, Sis Andrews had the pleasure of presenting both members (fortunately present) with their Life Membership Certificates and Badges and invited the recipients to speak. Both new Life Members accepted the invitation and provided some reminiscences of their Rechabite careers.

Sis Andrews then presented two Certificates of Appreciation, one to Sis Kilah and one to her husband, Rev Harold Kilah, commenting on the work carried out behind the
Continued at the centre column of page 8 ...



On case you missed this on page 2 we give

A Word of Explanation

For our
Queensland Members

RECEIVING two annual membership accounts a week apart has caused some concern for our members, but it came about because our mailing house forgot to include the reply paid envelope in the first mailing.

They used the original data base to send a second mailing (with the envelope included) at their expense, including the postal charges. Unfortunately, errors do sometimes occur in the best laid plans.

The mailing house we use for all Queensland mailings, i.e., the accounts and calendars as well as the Australia wide mail out of *The Australian Rechabite* is a small charitable organisation started by a group of concerned parents of disabled or disadvantaged children to provide them with some meaningful employment.

This is their first error in the three years we have used them so trust you can excuse them for any confusion you may have experienced. ■

2012 Household Fair & Bowls Competitions



L – R George Williams, Peter Henderson, Cora Williams, Margaret Andrews, Paul Andrews, Judy Swan, Tim Collingwood, Christine Collingwood, Ron Anderson, Noel Andrews

THE annual Household Fair was held in the Grange Progress Hall, Grange on 8th September 2012.

An enjoyable day was had by all with entries up on previous years.

The winners of the bowls competitions were:

Alex & Alice Morrison Memorial Trophy Gatton

Commonwealth Tent Trophy

Ladies Winner: Sis Cora Williams

Runner-up: Sis Margaret Andrews

Commonwealth Tent Trophy

Gents Winner: Bro George Williams

Runner-up: Bro Noel Andrews

Fred Lather Memorial Trophy Winners:

Bro Ron Anderson &
Bro Peter Henderson

E (Ted) Why Memorial Trophy

Runners-up: Sis Judy Swan &
Paul Andrews

The sad and sudden passing of Sis Eileen Devereux, only one day after the Household Fair was a shock to us all. Eileen supported the Household Fair with entries in various categories. This, as well as her invaluable support behind the scenes, will be sadly missed.

On behalf of all members of the Independent Order of Rechabites and the Rechabite Social Activities Committee, I pass on our deepest sympathy to Cec and his family.

Margaret Andrews
Secretary

Rechabite Social Activities Committee

Thoughts to Ponder

In 20 years, you will be more disappointed by what you didn't do than by what you did. - Mark Twain

Always laugh when you can.
It is cheap medicine.

Three Simple Rules in Life:

1. If you do not GO after what you want, you'll never have it.

2. If you do not ASK, the answer will always be NO.

3. If you do not step forward, you'll always be in the same place.

Apologising: does not always mean you are wrong and the other person is right.

It just means you value your relationship more than your ego.

Remind yourself that it's okay not to be perfect. ■



WITH over 60 adults and children, the 2012 IOR Christmas Party was a huge success. Friendly, entertaining and informative, our State Chief Ruler, Sis Cynthia Kilah, ran a great party with the wonderful help of Executive members.

There was no "official" entertainment this year, but we made a lot of our own, singing Christmas carols and songs, completing puzzles, and generally having a most enjoyable evening.



Queensland District Christmas Party



Fun for young and old! Liz Jordan, left with Rae Belcher is young! Liz, is now 1, well 101, but had a great time, as did Lyn and Bob Cook, with a Grandson; far left.



One excited little girl meets Santa



All in Tune; Jean, Keith and Melissa

A charge of \$10 per person was made this year, but as usual, children were free. The meal was simply scrumptious! A very sincere thankyou to all who put so much effort into making a successful evening.

Plan now to join us on **Saturday 14th December 2013** for our next party. ■

Queensland District Proposed Social Activities for 2013

The following is the proposed social activities for the Queensland District No. 87. If you wish to attend any of the functions, would you please contact the following:

Bus Trips
Picnics
Social Bowls

Sis Cora Williams on 3201 5946
Bro Peter Henderson on 3841 2868
Sis Cora Williams on 3201 5946

| DATE | ACTIVITY | DETAILS |
|-----------|-----------------|--|
| 14/03/13 | Bus Trip | To Strathgordon Clydesdales, Woodford. Cost - Contact Cora Williams |
| 13/04/13 | Social Bowls | To be held in Ipswich City Uniting Church Hall, Limestone Street, Ipswich. Cost \$4.00 Commencing 1.00p.m. to 4.30p.m. |
| May | Bus Trip | Contact Cora Williams in April. |
| July | Bus Trip | Contact Cora Williams in June. |
| 18/08/13 | Picnic | Sherwood Arboretum off Dewar Terrace, Sherwood commencing at 10.00 a.m. with morning tea and lunch at approximately 12.00p.m. BYO Food and Drinks. |
| September | Bus Trip | Contact Cora Williams in August. |
| 20/10/13 | Picnic | Roma Street Parklands, Brisbane Commencing at 10.00 a.m. with morning tea and lunch approximately 12.00 noon. BYO Food and Drinks. |
| November | Bus Trip | Contact Cora Williams in October. |
| 14/12/13 | Christmas Party | Venue to be advised |

New South Wales *News*

NSW State Chief Ruler's Address

to the 128th Annual General Conference held on 20th October 2012

THANK you to the members of the 127th Annual General Conference for voting me into the position of State Chief Ruler 2011-2012. We have continued this year to strive to keep the society functioning despite the ever decreasing membership.

Thank you to all the committee members who assisted Bro John Dixon with preparing the calendars for the mail out and who later worked on the mail-out.

Bro Dixon continues to work tirelessly from home in a voluntary capacity, ensuring the membership records are kept up to date.

This year saw the launch of our website (<http://www.australianrechabites.org.au/>), where members can find our history, contact details for State Office bearers and a host of other information. I would especially like to acknowledge the work of Sis Margaret Campbell and Bro John Dixon in liaising with the VIC and QLD fraternities together with the web-designer, in the setting up of the website.

This year saw tent visits undertaken to Newcastle and Strathfield, by some of

the members of your state committee as I was unable to attend due to work commitments. I understand the members appreciated the opportunity to talk with the committee members who were able to attend and discuss the future direction of the society.

I am disappointed that so few of our former Junior members have remained active in the society post-adolescence. If, as a society we hope to continue into the future, this is a problem which has been present for over two decades that must be addressed in the very near future.

I would like to thank Sis M Campbell, SDCR and Sis G Kalaitzis, PSCR who have stepped in for me when I was on holiday in March and when my work commitments prevented me from attending tent visits.

I would also like to thank my parents, Bro Greg Allen PSCR and Sis Marion Allen who have supported me this past year and to whose years of experience actively involved in the society I could turn when needed.

In closing, I would like to thank the NSW State Committee for all the work they have done during 2011-2012 and for the support they have given to me.

Yours fraternally,

Sis Ruth D Allen, SCR

From the NSW State Chief Ruler

IT was with pleasure that I accepted the nomination to remain State Chief Ruler at the Annual Conference in October.

NSW Indoor Bowls continue to meet on the third Saturday of the month at Kingsgrove Uniting Church. New players are always welcome to attend.

It was a pleasure to spend time with everyone who was able to attend the Family Picnic at Campbell Hill Reserve at the end of November. The weather wasn't too warm and there was lots of pleasant conversation amongst everyone who attended. Despite the State Chief Ruler suffering from tonsillitis everyone seemed to have a good time.

Thank you to Sis Marion Allen, Sis Jeanette Sheldon and the rest of the committee who undertook the catering for the event.

It would be nice if this year we saw some new faces at some of our many social functions. Watch this space for details and contacts.

Yours fraternally,

Ruth Allen, SCR



**Back Row: Gregory Allen, Marcia Pidgeon, Frank Pidgeon
Front Row: Paul Sheldon, Ruth Allen SCR, Margaret Campbell, Jeanette Sheldon
with the bust of Robert G Ennever, PDCR, founder of NSW District No.85**

Strathfield Friendship Tent No.20 Goes West

with Lorraine Allerton

(and with the Editor's apologies for not including this in the last issue)

LAST May we joined forces with another group on a four (4) day tour of Parkes. First stop was morning tea at Sheldon's, lunch at Lithgow, then on to Parkes arriving late afternoon.

After breakfast on Day 2, we took a guided tour of Parkes, a town with a population of 11,000. A freight train service from Perth stops at Parkes to have its load transferred to trucks. An airport was opened in 2002 making the town an increasingly important centre.

We went to the highest point in the district, Memorial Hill, for a bird's eye of Parkes and took time out at the Shrine of Remembrance.

On returning to the Tourist Centre we went inside the *King's Castle*, the Elvis Presley Museum, where 40 pieces of memorabilia – outfits, jewellery, photographs, postcards and posters, Elvis' last Cadillac and Colonial Tom Parkes' memorabilia, are displayed.

The Parkes Motor Museum has old cars and motorbikes from an Antique Motor Club. An old school and a church are also on the museum grounds, as well as an old Red Rattler carriage and a Silver City Comet carriage.

After lunch we drove to Bogan Gate and on to Ootha to see twenty (20) painted and named utilities, like Utopia, Dame Edna Loo Ute, Utezilla, Drizakubra and Clancy Stops the Overflow and Bundaberg Rum to list a few.

Day 3 was another beautiful day when we set off for The Dish*. It is really quite impressive! We watched three short DVD's and then we were able to come very close and watch it change position.

The next stop was Peak Hill, where we met a very knowledgeable guide,



The CSIRO Parkes Radio Telescope

Photo Courtesy of their Web Site

who took us to five open cut gold mines. The largest is 600 metres long, 300 metres wide and 100 metres deep. The water in the bottom is extremely toxic due to the different minerals in the soil. The colours in the cutting were quite amazing.

We then drove to the top of the hill where we saw the other four mines, some entirely cut out by hand.

Day 4 saw us homeward bound. We left the Newell Highway and headed for Manildra and then on to Molong, the site of one of our early mining booms. The town is a mixture of renovated miners cottages and modern homes.

Back on to the Mitchell Highway, we proceeded through to Orange and Bathurst and on to home.

We thank Sis Jeanette Sheldon for organising a wonderful weekend.

* The CSIRO Parkes Radio Telescope

Newcastle Tent Visit

THREE members of the State Committee, Sis Margaret Campbell, Bro Frank and Sis Marcia Pidgeon, visited the Newcastle Tent for their Christmas Meeting.

Again Bro Tom Sephton had an interesting display of cigarette cards, postcards and gemstones for us to look at and ask questions about. ■

Jottings from Malcolm Campbell

THIS year bush fires! It seems that at this time of writing each year brings natural disasters.

Also I report the passing of some long-time members:

Bro Jack Matthews (Happy Jack) who joined the Society in 1935 and was a resident of Punchbowl for many years. He served in the army during World War 2.

His daughter, Sis Jill Myers and son Trevor spoke at the funeral as did his grandchildren.

"You don't stop laughing because you grow old:
you grow old because you stop laughing."

Sis Mavis Joyce Crawford (Joyce), wife of Bro Peter Maclean Crawford PDCR (1962-63), assisted Bro Peter with duties associated with the position of Secretary of *Excelsior Tent No.8* until 1979 when he retired due to ill health. Sis Joyce moved from Sydney to be close to her son, Bro Lancelot Peter Crawford and daughter-in-law Pamela. Joyce is remembered not least for her hospitality.

Sis Yvonne Sheedy, who with her family moved to South Australia when her husband, Bro David Sheedy transferred for employment. Bro David, of bowling fame, was also a Tent Officer rising to Chief Ruler of *Excelsior Tent No.8* and was a Tent Representative to the Annual General Conference.

At the 2012 New South Wales Rechabite Fraternity Annual General Conference election, the office bearers remained the same except Sis Gail Kalaitzis PSCR retired.

Congratulations to Sis Ruth Allen, State Chief Ruler and other Officers. Thanks also to Sis Kalaitzis.

Bro John Dixon, PSCR was unable to be there due to hospitalisation. We wish him all the best.

Malcolm Campbell
Secretary – Excelsior Tent No.8
Campsie Tent No.81
Tel: (02) 9558 9800

2013 Syllabus for Independent Order of Rechabites New South Wales Nil Desperandum Tent No.4

10th January

Dorothy Cubban's – BBQ

24th January

Beetles / "Aussie" Supper

14th February

Uno/Ono

28th February

Scrabble

14th March

Buttons

28th March

Board Games

11th April

Dorothy Cubban's – BBQ

25th April

Jig Saws

9th May

Trivial Pursuit

23rd May

Election of
Officers/Beetles

June – August

Hibernation

12th September

Installation of Officers
Uno & Ono

26th September

Scrabble

10th October

Board Games

24th October

Dorothy Cubban's – BBQ

14th November

Buttons

28th November

2014 Syllabus/ Jigsaws

12th December

Christmas Meal Outing

Strictly Personal ...



BROTHER Nathan Kilah of Annerley Tent No 67 with his wife, Dr Ahyoung Park and their son, Edmund, left Marburg, Germany, in mid-January 2013 to relocate to Hobart, Tasmania. Nathan is taking up a position with the University of Tasmania as a Lecturer in Synthetic Chemistry.

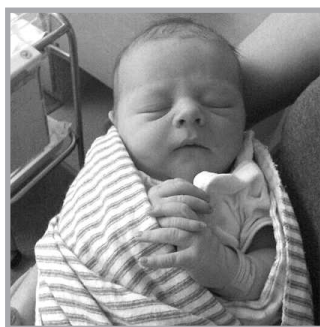
While Nathan and Ahyoung have enjoyed their time living and working in England and Germany, their Australian family is looking forward to having them a little closer.



Edmund, relaxing in his bouncer.

Edmund James Kilah, the first grandchild for Sis Cynthia Kilah DCR, and Rev Harold Kilah, was born in Germany on 12 September 2012.

ON time and with little fuss was the obliging Great Grandchild of your Editor, **Bro 'Ian Belcher** and his wife, **Sis Rae Belcher PDCR (NSW)**, who arrived on Sunday 13/01/13 as predicted. **Liam Christopher Belcher** is the son of Christopher Eric and Becky (Rebecca Louise) Belcher, youngest daughter of Christopher Burridge, so the name is apt.



Liam, just a few hours old.

There was much rejoicing as the birth was announced at the church where Liam's parents, grandparents - on both sides, great grandparents, uncles and "his cousins and his aunts" were all in attendance. (Apologies to Gilbert & Sullivan.)

NOW there are other important "babies" that need a lot of tender care to be brought into this world. Such care has again been given by **Bro Ralph Mitchell**, Victorian Past State President, as he assembled his new toy 'baby', a 5 inch gauge Diesel-electric engine.



Bro Ralph Mitchell with his "new born" Diesel-electric engine.

A member of the Bendigo Society of Model Engineers, Bro Ralph hopes with these locos, (his and two others owned by other members), the Society can run trains on its permanent track at Eddington during the summer months. As in England these days, live steam – full size or model – is not allowed to run in the summer in case of starting a fire.

The Society operates monthly in a lovely shaded picnic ground setting and is open to the public for rides on those days.

Bro Ralph still runs his live steam locomotive "Britannia" that took him 20 years to build, as reported in TAR September 2001. ■



In Remembrance



Sis Grace May Jarvis

THIS is a poem written for Grace by her Son.
It tells of the life of a very busy lady.

We see angels, strolling in the garden,
We hear them whisper, soft and sweet,
It's time Grace, It's time now, for us to meet.

Let's have a chat about where we're going.
Rest assured there'll be no mowing
And the weeds my dear, have all been pulled
And the shopping trolley is over full.

The tennis court is never booked,
You can practice forever and correct that hook.
What's that Grace? Yes my dear
The library is empty, there are no books.

The gardening is all done, no more houses to paint
Just tennis all day and conversations quaint.
Bowls are played, and you can stay up late
And we'll tape the soapies without mistakes.

Travel with us by day and by night
Trust in our motto; "No Fear in Flight"

Grace was a member of *Pioneer Almima Tent No 1*. We remember her as a fierce bowls competitor and her entries in **The Household Fair** each year were truly amazing.

Grace, you are sadly missed.

Rest In Peace
30/09/1926 – 23/07/2012



The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the
everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33:27

Bro Douglas Ronald Bell PDCR

BROTHER Doug first joined the Rechabites on 21 June 1951 at 26 years of age when he joined *Dinmore Tent No 68*. He then became a member of *Sandgate Tent No 73* and transferred to *Lutwyche Tent No 99* where he remained a member until his death.

His involvement with the Fraternal Executive, District Executive and District Trustees stretched from 1960 to 1995 where he served as a District Officer, District Deputy Ruler, District Chief Ruler, Past District Chief Ruler and District Trustee.

On the social side of the organisation, Doug became the President of The Rechabite Sports Association in 1982 and when the Association changed its name, was then Chairman of the Rechabite Sports and Social Association. It was only when he turned 80 that he decided that he could hand over the reins to somebody younger. His knowledge and assistance with all things bowls was appreciated by many members.

After moving to the retirement home, his interest in bowls was still strong and he asked the Association if they would be prepared to donate a couple of mats and bowls so he could start up a bowls competition at the home. These were donated to the home and I'm sure Doug was very keen to pass on his knowledge to the other residents.

Doug was also Chairman of The Rechabite Ball Committee from 1977 until 2001 when the Committee was disbanded. Along with past members Norma Clarkson, Grace Law and Bob Beeson, Bro Bell organised many supper dances for the enjoyment of the members and friends.

Doug was awarded the Certificate of Merit for meritorious service on 14 February 2002, with Life Membership being awarded on 17 October 1999 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Rechabite movement in Queensland over many years.

This is only a brief look at the contribution that Bro Bell gave to the Rechabites.

On behalf of all members who knew Bro Doug, we extend our condolences to his family and friends.

Rest in Peace
05/02/1925 to 22/12/2012



Rt Hon John Bercow MP

John Bercow: more MPs seeking help for alcoholism

THE speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, has said that more MPs are seeking help for alcohol problems. His comment was made as Parliament attempts to crack down on Westminster's drinking culture following highly publicised incidents involving MPs under the influence of alcohol.

In one incident, drunken Labour MP Eric Joyce attacked four Conservative politicians in a House of Commons bar before telling police: "You can't touch me. I'm an MP". In this, Mr Joyce was mistaken. He was prosecuted and he admitted four counts of assault at Westminster Magistrates' Court. Magistrates imposed a 12-month community order and fined him £3,000. Mr Joyce said he was "ashamed and embarrassed".

In an interview for Sky News' Dermot Murnaghan programme, Mr Bercow suggested that there may be politicians with 'other addiction issues' as the House 'reflects wider society'. It has emerged that House of Commons staff are to be told to top up MPs' glasses fewer times at Parliamentary receptions, to discourage excessive drinking. Mr Bercow said there is no longer a heavy subsidy on alcohol served in Parliament's bars, and he

said: "I think it is important that the medical service in the House is as aware as it can be of members problems. There is some evidence now that more members and staff who have got drink-related issues are seeking help and that's a positive.

"I think we are a reflection of society and just as there are people in every walk of life who have got issues to do with alcohol, and possibly other addiction issues, there can be problems in this place."

However, at least one MP is adamant that more needs to be done. George Galloway, the new 'Respect' MP for Bradford West, who is reported to be teetotal, demanded that every House of Commons bar be closed to stop MPs passing laws while they are under the influence. "No one else is allowed to drink alcohol while they work", Mr Galloway said, "Why are we?"

Reprinted with permission from **Alcohol Alert** Summer 2012.



Professor Mark Bellis

"Health Warnings Needed on Alcohol"

HEALTH warnings on alcohol would help inform people about the risks of drinking, according to the Faculty of Public Health. The FPH says they would also make it easier for people to understand the need for minimum unit pricing of alcohol.

The FPH says there is evidence that health warnings would increase people's knowledge about the potential harm alcohol can cause. Professor Mark Bellis, FPH's spokesman on alcohol, said: "At the moment, when people think about the dangers associated with alcohol, they are more likely to think of the problems caused by binge drinking rather than breast cancer.

These health warnings would help educate the public and give them key information before they decide to buy a can or bottle of alcohol. The evidence linking alcohol to over 60 medical conditions is unarguable, so we need factual, not sensational, warnings to help the public understand the risks.

People don't realise that drink is associated with a whole range of health harms and has potential long-term implications."

The type of warnings that alcohol labelling could include are:

Alcohol is a drug that causes dependence

Alcohol is a drug that causes addiction

Alcohol increases risks of violence and abuse

Alcohol reduces fertility in men and women

Alcohol causes over 15,000 deaths a year in the UK

Alcohol increases risks of mouth, throat and other cancers."

Professor Bellis continued: "The health messages that are most important for people to see are the ones that drinks manufacturers are least likely to want to put on their products. Ministers would need to stipulate the size of the warnings on the label of all cans and bottles."

Reprinted with permission from **Alcohol Alert** Summer 2012

