

The Australian Rechabite

Issue 1
March 2014

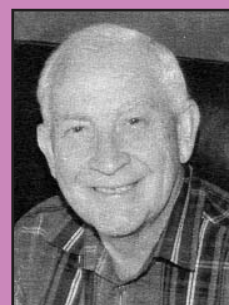
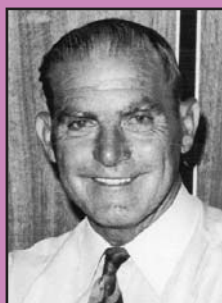
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*Rechabites:
People who enjoy an
alcohol-free lifestyle*



The Australian **Rechabite**

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

Keeping Rechabites in touch



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**Peace and Plenty
the reward of
Temperance**



Editorial

ALCOHOL fuelled violence is on the rise, yet our governments only seem to be interested in dealing with the "symptoms and not the cause".

"The Sunday Mail" of January 19 reports, "Premier Campbell Newman will throw the book at aggressive thugs who kill or maim people while drunk.

"Mr Newman said he would prefer to jail and fine drunks who hurt people, instead of cutting the opening hours of nightclubs, costing jobs."

From "change.org" I have just been advised that NSW "Premier O'Farrell is introducing stronger sentencing laws to end alcohol fuelled violence, introducing a minimum 8-year jail sentence for 'coward punch' killers." This is in response to an Australia-wide petition organised by "change.org". NSW is also reducing trading hours in pubs and clubs.

Introducing stronger sentencing laws is to be applauded, but they will not "end alcohol fuelled violence". We are dealing with symptoms not the cause.

Allowing the wide spread sale of alcohol is "the cause". Allowing it to be served into the early hours of the morning is "the cause".

How many innocent lives must be lost before something is done "to end alcohol fuelled violence"?

Signing petitions such as change.org is organising will make some difference and bring the problem to the notice of thousands of people who are also concerned, but unless there is a reduction in the sale of alcoholic drinks we are not going to see even a slowing of alcohol violence.

It is two years old, but an article from the UK Alcohol Alert begins on page 5 which is worth a read. Similar laws

in this country would not go amiss. A similar shake up might help end the alcohol fuelled violence we are witnessing today.

Not only is alcohol fuelled violence costing lives, it is also costing the community and stretching our ambulance and hospital facilities. I personally know Doctors in Casualty Wards who are literally run off their feet, working very long hours without sleep because of many unnecessary alcohol fuelled injuries needing attention.

As members of our Order let us take every action to voice our concern to those in authority to look at the cause, not the symptoms.

And finally, on a personal note, you will notice in column 1 that the Mailing Address for any contributions to this journal are to sent to my home address:

**11 Frangipanni Street
BELLBIRD PARK QLD 4300**

as I no longer have the use of a Post Office Box.

Unfortunately, the Redirection Notice that was submitted on my behalf did not include The Editor of TAR and I fear some correspondence did not reach me for this edition. I sincerely apologise.

A greater use of my e-mail address would not only be safer, but also save a great deal of drafting time. Text and photos can all be sent to the e-mail address.

Regretfully, I no longer have my wife's valued assistance in the preparation of the magazine, but I thank my son, Allan, for taking over the preparation of the disc that goes to our printer, one area I have not been able to master.

**Vivian A Belcher
Editor**

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 2014

From the Queensland District Chief Ruler

THE word 'change' has many definitions depending on how we want to use the word. There have been dozens, if not hundreds, of books and articles written to educate us about the concept of change and how to manage it.

One thing I know is that most of us don't like change. We see it as something that threatens or makes us uncomfortable. But whether we like it or not we are confronted by changes every day.

As I write this article, members of the IOR in Queensland are mourning the death of our District Secretary, Bro Bob Cook. Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to his wife, Sis Lyn Cook and their family.

Bro Bob was an exemplary member of the Order and gave himself wholeheartedly to the role of District Secretary over many years. What a change and a challenge his passing presents for the Queensland District.

Every blessing to you as you face changes in your life.

**Cynthia Kilah,
District Chief Ruler**



Members of Annerley Tent No. 67 Celebrate 100 Years of service

Annerley Tent No.76 Celebrates 100 Years

ON Saturday, 12th October 2013, 24 members and friends of Annerley Tent No 67 gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Tent that opened on 17th September 1913.

Guests enjoyed a luncheon, a display of memorabilia as well as "travelling through the decades", remembering moments in history. What a lot of memories we had to share! Sis Joan Chapman and Bro Ron Andersen claimed the honour of being the longest attending Annerley members at the celebration.

Sis Cynthia Kilah, District Chief Ruler, presented Bro Peter Henderson with a Certificate of Recognition for continuing his family's tradition of fulfilling the role of Annerley Tent Secretary. He commenced this role in June 1992 following his uncle, Bro Stan Mason, who was secretary from July 1961, who followed his father, Bro George Mason who held the position from July 1925 – a total of 88 years of service!

The future is unknown but Annerley Tent No 67 plans to remain active for some time to come. ■

Queensland News

Brisbane Markets History

DURING November 2013, the members of the David Livingstone No.5 and Annerley Tent No.67 had a wonderful visit to the Brisbane Markets History Room. The History Room captures the story of almost 150 years of wholesaling fresh fruit and vegetables in Brisbane.

We were impressed with the display which includes photographs, film and stories that vividly depict the history of the markets. Memorabilia includes the original Roma Street Markets bell, commemorative badges, tools, equipment used in the packing sheds, aprons, diaries and a range of boxes and packaging.

The visit was meaningful for many tent members who had family connections with the markets and particularly for Bro Cec Devereux who worked at the Rocklea markets for 21 years. His recollections and knowledge were so impressive that the Brisbane Markets Limited's Communications Executive plans to record Bro Cec's memories.

Sis Margaret and Bro Noel Andrews recalled that their wedding reception was held in the Avocado Room at the "new" Market Club 43 years ago. They too have been able to add to the History Room's collection.

We came away from our visit excited to tell others about our wonderful experience and sporting Brisbane Market caps that had been presented to us by the Communications Executive. It was great to have her say "Your group really made my day today, so thanks for coming in and planting a smile on my face."

If you'd like to visit this remarkable

Continued on page 5 ►►►



The IOR Queensland Christmas Party 2013

ON 14 December 2013, forty adults and 8 children from Gatton, Ipswich and Brisbane gathered together to celebrate another year at the Christmas Party. It was held in the Uniting Church Hall, Pope Street, Tarragindi. A wonderful evening was had by all with cold meat and salad dinner, desert and all the necessary Christmas trimmings.



The Andrews' Family



Santa with Margaret & Codell Andrews



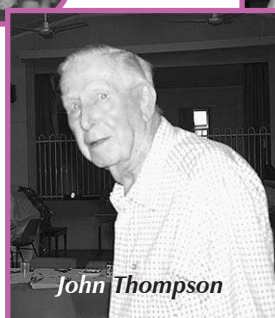
Joan Chapman (left) & Cecily Walker



Santa holding court with the kids

The entertainment was provided by all those attending with participation in games, dancing and competitions with prizes for the winners. Almost everyone won something appropriate for Christmas. Competitions and games were arranged for the children and adults but in the end everyone had a go at everything.

Continued on page 5 ►►►



John Thompson



George & Cora Williams with Liz Jordan and Del McIvor

Proposed IOR Queensland Social Activities for 2014

The following activities comprise part of the program of *Annerley Tent No. 67* and *David Livingstone Tent No. 5*. Any Queensland member is invited to attend these functions.

Please confirm the arrangements for each event with either **Bro Peter Henderson** on 0419 640 493 or **Sis Judy Swan** on 3376 3773.

11 February	Morning Tea and visit to the Museum of Brisbane
29 March	Lunch at the Pelican's Nest at Wynnum
12 April	Social Games – to be advised
6 May	Dinner at Sizzlers, Annerley
22 June	Afternoon Picnic at Sherwood Arboretum
26 August	Visit to the galleries at South Bank
21 September	Picnic lunch at Roma Street Parklands
21 October	Dining out – to be advised
November	Live Theatre – to be advised
13 December	District Christmas Party



Bob & Cathy Cross



Margaret Andrews with Del & Norm McIvor

Brisbane Markets History



▶▶▶ *Continued from page 3*

collection, it's located in the refurbished Fresh Centre building, at Brisbane Markets at Rocklea. (In 1964, this building was considered as Australia's most modern banana ripening rooms and Market office block.) The history room is free to enter and is open to the public from 8.00am to 3.00pm on business days. ■

Left: Members who visited the Brisbane Markets

▶▶▶ *Continued from page 4*

Of course, no Christmas Party would be complete without Santa Claus who paid a visit and gave out presents to all the children. Santa also made a point of visiting each table and talking to the members.

Our thanks go to the 'helpers' on the night with special thanks to the Andrews' Family who were of great help.

Queensland District Executive



Ron Andersen and Keith Tune with Cec Devereux, Jean Tune and Melissa Tune opposite.



Ron Andersen & Cec Devereux



Noel Andrews with Ron Anderson, Cora Willaims, Mrs Anderson and opposite is Tim & Chris Collingwood.

New Powers to tackle problems of late night drinking

NEW powers have been granted to local authorities in England and Wales to use early morning alcohol restriction orders (EMROs) to restrict the sale of alcohol in all or part of their areas between midnight and 6am, and to charge a levy for late-night licences to contribute to the cost of extra policing and other costs linked to late-night drinking, like street cleaning.

The new powers have been introduced following a consultation carried out by the Coalition Government into the workings of the Licensing Act.

Announcing the new powers, Minister for crime prevention and antisocial behaviour reduction, Lord Henley said: "The Government is radically reshaping the approach to crime and policing by giving back powers to local communities so they can reclaim their high streets.

"We have already overhauled the ineffective licensing regime and introduced new measures that will put local people back at the heart of licensing decisions, allowing them to take action against problem premises and alcohol-related offending.

We are building on this through the *Continued on page 12* ▶▶▶



A Message from the NSW State Chief Ruler

I AM Jeanette Sheldon, daughter of Eric Evenden, wife of Paul Sheldon both Past State Chief Rulers, and also a proud new grandmother. My grand-daughter being born on 6th January 2014.

At our Annual Conference last October, our new committee was elected. Welcome to Gail Kaliatzis, Norma Chambers, Jennifer Terry, and Malcolm Campbell, who are joining Ruth Allen, Margaret Campbell, Marcia Pigeon, Frank Pigeon and myself.

Sadly, we have lost three Past Chief Rulers in the last six months, Paul Sheldon in June, Ray Beaver and George McDonald (Uncle George) in November. My Condolences to the families of these men.

Our society is shrinking as we are all getting older and very few people are joining, not because more people are drinking alcohol as these are young people who do not drink, but because our society is not keeping up with the changes of the way we live. Young people don't want meetings, socials, and picnics any more so we have to change our society to appeal to them. We have a good website (www.australianrechabites.org.au) which is growing but we need to do more. This is something the NSW Executive Committee is concentrating on this year. If you have any suggestions please let me know at nsw.one@australianrechabites.org.au

Jeanette Sheldon
State Chief Ruler. NSW

New South Wales News

Friendship Tent No.20 Strathfield

FRIENDSHIP Tent members enjoyed many outings during 2013. These included:

* A tour of Hunter's Hill and museum organised by Dorothy Cubban.

* An organ recital at the Sydney Town Hall.



Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ

* We walked the Kokoda trail at Concord.

* We had a wonderful morning being entertained at Fairground Follies with history and demonstrations of fairground musical instruments topped with a return to childhood (not a child in sight) with a ride on a merry-go-round, barrel organs, amusing patter.



Fairground Follies

* Our final activity for the year was Christmas lunch at Dooley's Club, Lidcombe.

We really enjoy our outings and have more exciting places planned to visit in this year of 2014.



Friendship Tent No.20 Strathfield

2014 calendar:

MEETINGS held on **3rd Tuesday** of the month except for October which will be the second Tuesday, 14th.

18th March is the AGM and members of the State committee will visit.

15th April – Outing

20th May – Outing

17th June - Carissbrook House, Lane Cove, \$10 inc. tour & morning tea.

15th July – Outing

19th August – Outing

16th September – Outing

14th October – Outing

18th November - Christmas Lunch
For information ring - Marcia or Frank Pidgeon 9645 3458
or Dorothy Cubban 9816 1805 ■

Newcastle Visit

THE NSW Committee consisting of the new Chief Ruler - Jeanette Sheldon, Deputy Ruler - Gail Kalaitzis, Treasurer - Malcolm Campbell, ordinary members Frank & Marcia Pidgeon attended Newcastle (Broadmeadow Tent) for their last meeting for 2013.

Members were able to ask the executives about the future of NSW I.O.R.

After the meeting we enjoyed yet another of Ted Sephton's amazing and varied collections.

We all enjoyed a lovely Christmas afternoon tea and chat. ■



The Broadmeadow Mob

A Message from the Victorian State President

WHAT a wonderful time of the year we have celebrated as we remembered the true meaning of Christmas and usually catch up with family and friends. Our festival tables usually have a generous spread and many of us probably ate far too much!

I returned to the office early January after a short break and after exchanging greetings with my colleagues the real tragedy of the Season was revealed when many said that they had had a great New Year's Eve; they couldn't remember anything, but they had a great night! What an absurd message, how could one have a great night but not remember anything? Of course, what is meant is that they had drunk themselves to excess on alcohol leaving a massive headache and not being able to remember what had happened the previous evening and what they had got up to. How can that be a "great night"? And, of course, we hear far too often about people being adversely affected by alcohol and doing things, which are generally out of character.

As a total abstainer, I, and I'm sure all of us Rechabites, are proud to say that we truly had a great time with family and friends and, although we may have over eaten, we can honestly say that we can remember the festivities and what we did.

I take this opportunity to wish one and all a safe and joyful 2014 and every success as we endeavour to promote the core values of the IOR Fraternity.

Geoff Legge
Victorian State President



2013 Victorian Annual Conference

THE Annual State Conference was held again in Shepparton at the Big Valley Lakeside Motor Inn on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October, 2013. 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.

In the afternoon of the Tuesday, Bro Bruce Legge (son of our Past President, Don Legge) spoke to us about his work in the navy captaining a warship and also of his work now in Canberra. All in attendance were enthralled by what Bruce had to tell us and asked if we could listen to him further on the Wednesday, if we had time left, which we did.

During dinner on the Tuesday night we were entertained by a singer and a musician who delighted us for nearly 2 hours with beautiful singing and lovely music.



L to R: Allan Clark, Ron Pratt, Geoff Legge, Don Legge, David McGee, Gwenda Martyn

The new State Committee elected at this Conference is as follows:

State President

- Bro Geoff Legge

Deputy State President

- Bro Ron Pratt

Past State President

- Bro Don Legge

Victorian News

State Officers

- Bro Allan Clark
- Bro David McGee

State Officer/State Secretary

- Sis Gwenda Martyn

It was great to have Bro Geoff Legge installed as our new State President. Geoff is of a younger generation to most of the Committee and we wish him well in his year as State President. The 2014 Conference will be held in the Geelong area.

The minutes of the 2013 Conference are available to anyone who is interested by contacting the State Secretary. ■

Victorian Fraternal News

AT THE 2013 Annual Conference a DSA Award was given posthumously to Bro Graeme Hicks for the great and valuable work he had done for the Rechabite Order over many years. The Distinguished Service Award is the highest award that the Victorian IOR can give for outstanding service to our

Rechabite Order. Seven members of his family were in attendance, with three of his children accepting the Award. Rev Neil Hicks responded with grateful thanks and advised that the medallion would be displayed with other awards with

which Bro Graeme had been presented.

Sadly we have to report the death in 2013 of Bro Ivan Stanway, who was the Secretary of Geelong Tent No.58 for many years. Bro Ivan usually conducted the Remembrance Service

Continued over ►►►

Region News

Region 6 MORWELL (Gippsland)

OUR meeting in October 2013 was once again very successful, even though we had to bring the meeting forward several weeks. We start our day with a meeting, then break for lunch and after lunch we continue with an afternoon programme that includes a speaker to entertain us.

We are lucky in our Region to have the State President, Deputy State President, Past State President and State Officer/State Secretary, which does tend to make our Region quite strong. We also have members from Bunyip, Bairnsdale and Leongatha as well as locals attend our meeting and of course, all the spouses of the State Committee members.

As the Morwell Neighbourhood House staff could not supply a lunch for us on this day we had to cater for ourselves, nevertheless, all enjoyed the beautiful lunch that was presented to us. Thanks to Peg for her help.

After lunch we enjoyed a humorous talk by our Past State President, Don Legge, who amused us with stories that he had encountered as his time as a Primary School Principal.

Region 6 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 26th April 2014.

Please contact Sis Gwenda Martyn on 5177 8144 for catering purposes if you wish to attend.

Our meetings are held in the Morwell Neighbourhood House. ■

Region 7 HARCOURT (Central Victoria)

SINCE our last meeting and social time I have been in contact with

several of our members and attendees. I am happy to learn that Sis Betty Paull is doing well after breaking her kneecap in an accident earlier in the year. She seems to be recovering from the resulting knee operation. It will be good to welcome you back to our next meeting Betty. She has had a Senior Birthday lately but she has also told me that Sis Marj Hallett, the widow of the late Rev Bro Hugh Hallett, has had her 100th Birthday also in December. Region and IOR congratulations to you Marj on this grand occasion and our very best wishes to you.

Also while travelling through Harcourt on December 15th, it being a Sunday afternoon, I realised that Bro Fred Wilkinson may have been home for a couple of hours from his Care Facility, and yes, he was! I spent an enjoyable time chatting with him and Thelma in the shade of a leafy fruit tree in their exceptionally neat garden.

I was also able to call on Bro Ralph Michell PSP, in the week before Christmas, he has a terrific memory and I enjoy my talks and discussions with Ralph. However, he finds it a little difficult to travel to Harcourt now as he only has his Motorised Buggy. He still does not like the modern titles for our State Officers.

I often see Glen Ford and his mother, Joyce Harris, as I travel back down the Calder. Joyce is doing very well and never seems to stop baking or making jams, relishes etc. Country heritage, no doubt. I have been able to have several meaningful discussions with them regarding the finance problem in the Uniting Church.

I am sure there are some other of our folk who are not at all well, a little bird not killed by Wind-farms speaks to me sometimes, I wish them all my best wishes. I do hope to see many of you again at our **NEXT MEETING on Sunday 16th March 2014 commencing at 12.30pm** with lunch.

Please let either me or Audrey or Betty know of your attendance for catering purposes. Thank you. ■

John Flett – Secretary
Tel: 9306 4068 or 5446 8439

▶▶▶ Fraternal News Continued from page 7

at our Annual Conferences until recent years. He was a very diligent Secretary, who took great pride in doing the secretarial work of the Tent.

Geelong Tent closed at the end of May 2012. Ivan's wife, Lila, died earlier in 2013. ■

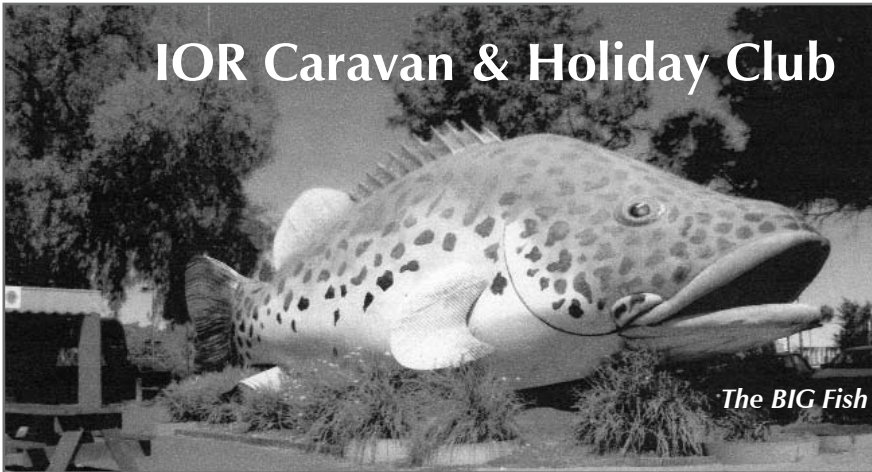


**Rev Neil Hicks thanks Bro Don Legge
for the Medallion presented to
Bro G Hicks.**

Region Meeting Dates for 2014 - Victoria

Date	Region	Secretary	Tel. No.	District
February	Sunday 9th	4/5 N Robilliard	9580 8614	Mordialloc
March	Sunday 16th	7 J Flett	9306 4968	Harcourt
March	Wednesday 19th	9 L Jukes	5762 5584	Kyabram
April	Saturday 26th	6 G Martyn	5177 8144	Morwell
May	Sunday 4th	4/5 N Robilliard	9580 8614	Mordialloc
September	Wednesday 17th	9 L Jukes	5762 5584	Kyabram
October	Sunday 19th	7 J Flett	9306 4968	Harcourt
October	Saturday 25th	6 G Martyn	5177 8144	Morwell
November	Sunday 2nd	4/5 N Robilliard	9580 8614	Mordialloc

IOR Caravan & Holiday Club



The BIG Fish

ON Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November, 2013, thirty-four members, with one first timer, had a most enjoyable 5 day coach tour to "The Mighty Murray-Echuca & Moama", staying at the Comfort Resort in Echuca for the five days.

Our first port of call after leaving Melbourne was to stop for morning tea at Myriad Glass Design where we were able to watch how the beautiful artworks are made by cutting and heating glass to melt, fuse and reform it to 'Marina' wonderful designs. We then travelled on and visited the Campaspe Run where we discovered the unique history of the Sunshine Harvester, which was developed in the Elmore area by Hugh Victor McKay.

Tuesday, Day 2, we had a guided tour through the historic Echuca port area, taking a ride on one of the famous paddle steamers that cruise along the Murray River, shadowed by the majestic river gums, dappled sunlight and screeching cockatoos flying overhead. Mid afternoon we visited the National Holden Museum. This is the largest one make car Museum in

Australia with over 40 restored Holdens, rare prototypes and historical film footage.

Wednesday, Day 3, we travelled to Lake Boga where we visited the Flying Boat Museum. After Broome was bombed by the Japanese, a safe haven for the flying boats was established at Lake Boga where maintenance and repairs could be completed well out of the range of enemy planes.



Flying Boat Museum at Lake Boga

We then travelled on to Swan Hill and visited the historic Pioneer Settlement Museum where we had lunch. The settlement grounds carefully recreate Mallee township of the 1800s on the banks of the Little Murray River. Before leaving Swan Hill we made a brief photo stop at the Giant Murray Cod – 11 metres long and 6 metres wide, the 'cod' signifies the local popularity of fishing on the Murray.

Thursday, Day 4, we follow the Murray Valley Highway to Torrumbarry Weir. The new weir was constructed in 1996 to replace the original, built in the early 1920s. We then travelled on to Cohuna for a picnic lunch on the lawns abutting Gunblower Creek.



A Car completely covered with ceramic tiles.

We then continued on to Barham, via Koondrook. Barham is surrounded by rich river flats and picturesque red sand hills. Timber, dairying and citrus fruit are the main produce of the immediate area.

Friday, Day 5, we farewelled Echuca-Moama and made our way to the township of Strathmerton where we visited a garden with a difference. Cactus Country features approximately 4,000 different species of cacti from North America and Mexico, South America and Africa. As we walk through the trails it is easy to forget that we are still in the richly irrigated farmlands of Victoria and have not been transported into the heart of a faraway desert.



Walking through Cactus Country

We travel on to Shepparton and as we drive through town we keep an eye out for the colourful cows known as 'mooving art' which are dotted around the parks and gardens.

David Barbey, our Coach Captain, was always so willing to help anyone in need and to load and off load the five or so walkers we had. Our thanks also to Bill for helping us all off the coach each time we stopped and to Joyce for doing such a wonderful job organising these trips and making sure we are all on the bus before we take off.

A wonderful trip was had by all with lots of fun, laughter and friendship. As so many of the members on the trip are regular travellers it is like having a holiday with all your friends.

So, come and join us on our **NEXT TRIP to Hamilton** in the **Western District from 17th - 21st March 2014.**

For further details on trips contact: Sis Joyce Wallace on (03) 9807 4044. ■

Strictly Personal ...



YOUNG IOR members **Mark and Cherie Brumley** of Leomgatha North, Victoria who attend *Moe Tent No. 488*, celebrated their combined 21st and 18th Birthdays respectively in 2013 with an alcohol-free gathering of approximately 80 family members and friends.



Cherie & Mark Brumley

It was great night enjoyed by all, which just goes to prove that a special event can be celebrated without alcohol. Everyone went home with clear memories of a most entertaining and enjoyable evening.



Duel Birthday Cake before being demolished.

Praise God for two wonderful young Christian people who have dedicated their lives to Him.

THE NSW State Chief Ruler, **Sis Jeanette Sheldon**, had **BIG NEWS** to announce on 6th January, saying, "I am a Nanna" due to her son Bradley and daughter-in-law, Emily, having a daughter, **Lacey Rhian**, born 7 weeks early.

Coming early seems to run in the family, although Lacey was not as small as Brad and his twin sister, the

smallest babies to come out of Westmead Hospital at that time.

Rhian, Welsh for "Maiden", is Emily's input into the name as she comes from Wales. She will be, of course, a fair maiden.

Congratulations to all and we pray God's blessing on this little family.

TWO in two months! With only one girl in the Belcher family for 106 years, the drought has been broken with the birth of two Great Granddaughters in two months. **Bro 'Ian & Sis Rae Belcher's** Grandsons, Scott and Robert did the honours.

Eleanora Violet, was born on 5th September 2013 to Scott & Leah Belcher. The Violet honours forebears of both her Mum & Dad.

Then **Evelyn Delith Rae** was born on 10th November 2013 to Robert & Charlotte Belcher. Her name honours two Great Grandmothers and her Mum's mother. Evelyn is a little sister for Jonathan Francis Neil.

AVERY special Birthday that took place on 15th January 2014 must be recorded. Celebrating with her family at a special luncheon at Toowong, **Hope of Ipswich Tent No.2** member, **Sis Elizabeth Dawson Jordan, Liz**, to her many friends, turned **102**.



What a wonderful life this lady has lived, and still living it in the home she and her late husband moved into in 1935. Congratulations Liz. ■

Ireland:

New Doctors' Policy Group on Alcohol to recommend minimum pricing and restricted availability to reduce deaths

THE Royal College of Physicians of Ireland has established a national policy group to address the health and social burden of alcohol in Ireland. The policy group brings together experts from a wide range of organisations, including the Irish College of General Practitioners, the National Cancer Control Programme, the College of Psychiatry of Ireland, the Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery, the Irish Society of Gastroenterology, and the Irish Association for Emergency Medicine.

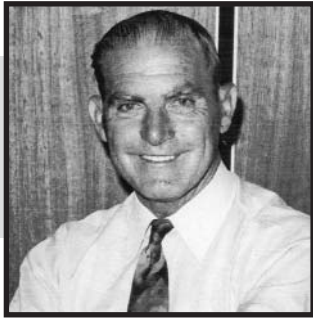
This multi-disciplinary group will address the unacceptably high levels of alcohol health harm in Ireland by proposing practical solutions backed up by a robust, international evidence base. The group's recommendations will be focused on reducing the harm caused by alcohol to health and safety.

Professor Frank Murray, Registrar of RCPI and Consultant Gastroenterologist at Beaumont Hospital in Dublin, is Chair of the policy group. He said, "The damaging effects of Ireland's dysfunctional relationship with alcohol simply can't be ignored. Alcohol is the third major cause of premature death and disability, after cigarettes and hypertension, and the major cause of death in men aged 35-50.

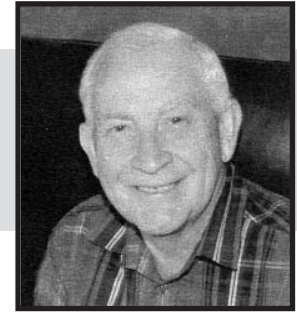
"As a society, we need to openly discuss and address the consequences of alcohol-related problems and make well-informed decisions for the sake of our society and future generations.

"In Ireland, we have the twin problems of increased affordability and dramatically increased availability of alcohol. Restrictions on availability,

Continued on page 12 ►►►



In Remembrance



Bro George Aeneas McDonald, PDCR, DSJT



Bro Robert (Bob) Alexander Cook, DS

BROTHER George McDonald was a caring Christian gentleman. Born Sunday, 29th August, 1920, he lived virtually his whole life in Greenwich in the house he left to go to hospital on Wednesday, 16th October 2013.

His private life was very private. He never married. He did serve in New Guinea during World War II and was a member of Greenwich Presbyterian Church.

He spent much of his time serving others, especially children sponsoring a child in the Burnside Homes and working as a volunteer at Westmead Children's Hospital.

George had a lifelong commitment to the Independent Order of Rechabites. He joined the IOR Chatswood Tent No.116 on 29th January, 1947. George was the universal uncle. Some people can remember George since they were 6 (which is approximately 60 years ago).

Uncle George was the king of the kids, not the clown, but the example to look up to. One has described him as "A real Mr Chips, he never made you feel you were a nuisance. He seemed to be a magnet to all children. I don't think he ever missed an IOR camp either." He was DSJT (District Superintendent of Juvenile Tents) for 8 years and District Chief Ruler for a year in 1968-69, the highest office in NSW at the time.

George was Secretary of the Ball Committee for many years. He was always at the setting up of the hall on the Friday afternoon of the Ball and also at all the débutante practices on Saturday afternoons prior to the balls. He was always ready to help out at any task. He was the person who presented the gifts to the flower girls and page boys.

As time keeper at our annual conferences, George kept fastidious time at these meetings. It did not matter who you were, if you had spoken for more than your allotted time, he rang the bell.

George made every effort to attend every Rechabite function possible, particularly the functions for children and even took some children to special events such as the circus and the tall ships in 1988. George was a stalwart of the Society.

He died in Greenwich Hospital Palliative Care Unit on Thursday, 14th November 2013, aged 93 years, 2 months and 16 days.

"Uncle George"... your friends from the IOR as well as those from the community you have touched with your kindness will sorely miss you. ... rest in peace.

29/08/1920 – 14/11/2013

IFIRST met Bob in 1984 when he became the Assistant District Secretary of the IOR in Queensland. At the time I was one of three Trustees who were responsible for the investments of the Society and Bob attended meetings with the District Secretary Bob Dobbs. At one of the first meetings, Bob asked some penetrating questions and made some valuable comments and I realised that we had a man of quality working with us.

Bob became the District Secretary in 1987 following the retirement of Bob Dobbs on health grounds. I continued to work alongside Bob as a Trustee, Queensland Director, National Director and more recently as Honorary Treasurer for nearly 30 years. Bob participated in many changes over those years and in most was responsible for steering the Society through those challenging times.

In about 1990 Bob and I visited the IOR in South Australia to inspect that State's three retirement villages. Queensland members were keen to establish their own village and we went south looking for ideas. Eventually, the Trustees purchased vacant land at Victoria Point and over a period built about 180 units and service facilities in what is known as the Salford Waters Retirement Estate. Our Queensland village became one of eight owned by the amalgamated IOR group and in our opinion was the jewel in the crown. The establishment

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►►► In Remembrance

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and successful operation of the village whilst owned by the IOR was due in no small measure to Bob's careful management over many years.

Although Bob was not a lifelong non-drinker like many IOR members, once he became involved he upheld our principles unfailingly. As part of his commitment, he became a director of Drug Arm, another body providing information education and other services in the alcohol and other drugs field. At various times he was a director, treasurer and deputy chairman of various Drug Arm companies. I had the privilege of serving with Bob at Drug Arm and on many occasions he reminded the other directors of our core principle of total abstinence when considering various matters.

Many of you will know that Bob was a stickler for detail. This is a good trait in a secretary! His knowledge of our rules and regulations was legend and we all appreciated the depth of his knowledge as he guided us through tricky circumstances. In recent years, the IOR in Queensland has reverted to a voluntary organisation and Bob carried about 90% of the workload. Mind you he was ably assisted by Lyn as the Honorary Assistant Secretary! He was dedicated to the task until his admittance to Hospital last Sunday week. When we learnt of the extent of Bob's health issues we wondered how we would cope with his departure. As an indicator of this dedication to the Society, Bob had prepared documents to assist in the changeover just before his hospitalisation.

Members of the IOR executive and members generally will miss Bob tremendously. We express our love and gratitude to Lyn and family for sharing Bob with us for those 30 years. We offer you our prayers and condolences through this time of sadness.

A Tribute delivered at Bob's funeral service 15 January 2014 by Bro Peter Henderson, District Treasurer.

14/06/1944 - 10/01/2014

►►► New Powers . . .

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Government's new alcohol strategy which sets out plans to crack down on the 'binge drinking' culture, end the availability of cheap alcohol and irresponsible drink promotions, and slash the number of people drinking excessively."

The consultation ran for 12 weeks and asked the public for views on the types of premises which could be exempted from an EMRO, or eligible for a reduction in levy charges if they were viewed as having a minimal effect on alcohol-related crime and disorder. The Government also consulted on the process that areas would need to follow when adopting these new measures, as well as on the type of services local authorities may fund from their portion of the levy and whether to allow exemptions for New Year's Eve.

The levy and EMRO measures are contained in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Other measures in the Act that came into effect in April include:

making it easier for communities to have their say by scrapping the 'vicinity test' which allows everyone the option to comment on licensing applications – not just those living close to premises

giving health bodies a greater say by making them 'responsible authorities' so they are automatically notified about and can make representations on new premises applications

taking tough action against premises that persistently sell alcohol to children by doubling the fine to £20,000 and extending orders that see premises closed on a voluntary basis as an alternative to a fine from 48 to 336 hours – which can lead to licences being revoked

reforming the system of temporary event notices, including allowing, for the first time, objections from environmental health to be made on the grounds of noise, and the police and envi-

ronmental health to be able to make objections on all licensing objectives – not just prevention of crime and disorder

reducing burdens and bureaucracy by allowing council to suspend licences due to non-payment of fees, saving them time and cost of pursuing non-payment through the courts.

These measures are at the heart of radical plan to turn the tide against irresponsible drinking as set out in the Government's alcohol strategy, published earlier this year. This includes plans to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol, consult on a ban on multi-buy price promotions in shops and give stronger powers to local areas to control the number of licensed premises. A number of key proposals within the strategy will be subject to consultation in the autumn.

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pricing, advertisements and sponsorships are the main issues that we hope to address through the policy group. Minimum unit pricing for alcohol will reduce the widespread availability of cheap alcohol, which has been proven to have an immediate impact on alcohol related mortality internationally. Reducing the availability of alcohol by limiting the numbers of outlets than can sell alcohol and reducing their opening hours are also of proven benefit.

"The alcohol-benefiting industries will protest loudly but they should not be allowed to formulate health-related policy. Self-regulation of the alcohol industry has proven not to work."

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(Action along these lines in Australia would also be beneficial. Would we be game to do so? Ed.)