

The Australian Rechabite

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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

BROTHER Dennis Quinlan, PDCR, of the NSW District sent me the photos of **Rechabite House**, 85 Campbell Street, Sydney, the former home of the NSW District where I began work with the Society on 30th June 1975.

The General Offices were on the Second floor and Bro Ted Peachey set me up with that A. B. Dick Offset Printer, referred to in our last issue, in the front corner Ground Floor room.

The Foundation Stone was laid on 23rd July 1910, just over 25 years after the District was established under the leadership of Bro Robert Ennever. The building housed the IOR Offices for nearly 70 years, when in 1980, we found ourselves working from the Grand United Order of Oddfellows building in Castlereagh Street until we bought and moved into our Parramatta property at 41 Hassall Street early in 1983.

Today the Campbell Street building is owned by The Salvation Army.

Some of this fine history was shared at the 130th Anniversary Celebrations of the NSW District on 13th September last year to which I was invited and asked to speak – but not for as long as I did. I apologise if I took too long, but covering forty years took time.

The afternoon celebrations chaired by Bro John Dixon began with a fine meal at the Hornsby RSL. The main speakers were Sis Jeanette Sheldon, State Chief Ruler, and Sis Margaret Campbell, former Chairman of the Board when the State Districts nationalised into IOR Friendly Society Limited.

Sis Campbell spoke of the honour she felt in the trust shown to her at that time. To have a woman, although a highly qualified one in Company Law, given this position was a real break through and one respected by all.

With the death of our beloved, Bob Cook, Qld D.S., Margaret now vets this Editorial, so this may not be included, but I have known this wonderful young lady since she was six when she pleaded with my wife, (we were house parents that year) to allow her to come to the IOR Camp her older siblings were attending.

That a right decision was made shows in the continued service Margaret is giving to the Order.

In each State we need a lot more Margaret's to take up the reigns of being advocates for an Alcohol free Lifestyle, being proud to be a Rechabite and encouraging many other young people to sign a pledge of total abstinence.

Several members were given the opportunity to speak remembering some of the glory years of the Order. Bro Malcolm Campbell, the current Secretary/Treasurer (no relation to Margaret) also shared some interesting facts. It was a very wonderful afternoon.

I am also pleased to include in this issue, material sent by Bro John Flett, 'Rechabites at War', honouring members who served our country in both World Wars. **LEST WE FORGET.**

Now, at the end of **Strictly Personal** I have included what might be considered strange material for this magazine, and even though it does feature my one and only granddaughter, I assure you I would have included it had she been anyone else's granddaughter. It's a love story not to be missed.

Lastly, the next issue of this magazine will not come out until October this year, as I am being taken overseas for eight weeks, returning mid August.

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 August 2015

Rechabite History

*In addition to
Bro Dennis Quinlan's
historic photographs
the following letter is included
to remind us of our origins
that yes, failed for a time,
but were to be re-established
in Van Dieman's Land.*

From RECHABITE HISTORY
by Robert Highet, F.C.R.A. 1935

The Order in New South Wales

John Garrett, who was High Deputy Ruler in 1836, having emigrated to New South Wales in July 1840, sent home this most interesting letter to the Corresponding Secretary: -
Mr W Grimshaw, 85, Lombard Street, Deansgate, Manchester, England.

Sydney, August 23rd 1842.

Dear Sir and Brother,
It is with pleasure that I now write you on the all-interesting subject of Rechabitism. You will remember that when I left England in July, 1840, you furnished me with a set of making books and rules to introduce the Order into this colony when an opportunity offered.

It is now my duty to inform you that a Tent has been opened in the City of Sydney, called the "Star of Australia" which bids fair to triumph over all opposition. Yes, opposition, for we have had not a little in this place; our old opponents the benefit societies have met us here also. Whether we, like Moses' Rod, shall swallow them

up or not, I have not sufficiently the spirit of prophecy to determine. However, we shall not despair.

New South Wales is a fruitful field, for teetotalism prospers much, the short pledge is in use, and this has proved one hindrance to us here; however, pure out-and-out teetotalism is on the advance.

The Tent was opened on 20th of April in the present year. In addition to myself, there was Bro. William Waring, the Zion Tent, Liverpool, and Bro. John Thompson, of (I think) the "Union" of the same place, in addition to the new members.

Our members are now twenty-five, and at our last night of meeting we had seven propositions and numerous applicants for information respecting our laws. We have had an application from Newcastle respecting the formation of a new Tent. The application was made through a Bro. D. MacGraw, of Newcastle, England where he was a preacher amongst the Primitive Methodists. I have written to him but have not received an answer.

On the first of next month there will be a procession, it being the anniversary of the Total Abstinence Society of this place. We intend to walk as Rechabites on that occasion under a splendid silk banner that is now being painted by myself, and we have no

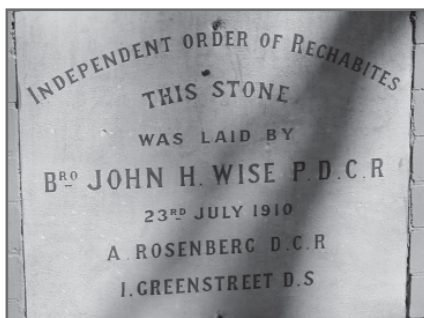
doubt but that we shall experience the same good results that have been so often felt in England on like occasions.

Being at the Antipodes, our communications must necessarily be seldom. Therefore it is desirable they should be as full as possible. You will see the necessity of giving publicity to this throughout the Order so that any of our brethren coming to this part of the world may provide themselves with the necessary credentials, and I trust they will find us able and willing to discharge our obligations to them as brethren. Our wants are few - that is from England - but I think we should be benefited by the circulation of tracts on Rechabitism and the Magazine of the Order. We will gladly leave the selection of these to the Executive, and any expense you may be at on our account we will repay by a remittance. You will find us Rechabites in spirit as well as in name. You will please to send us the number of our Tent in your first communication, and I intend at our next Tent meeting to move that we send to the Executive a weekly copy of the teetotal newspaper published in this place.

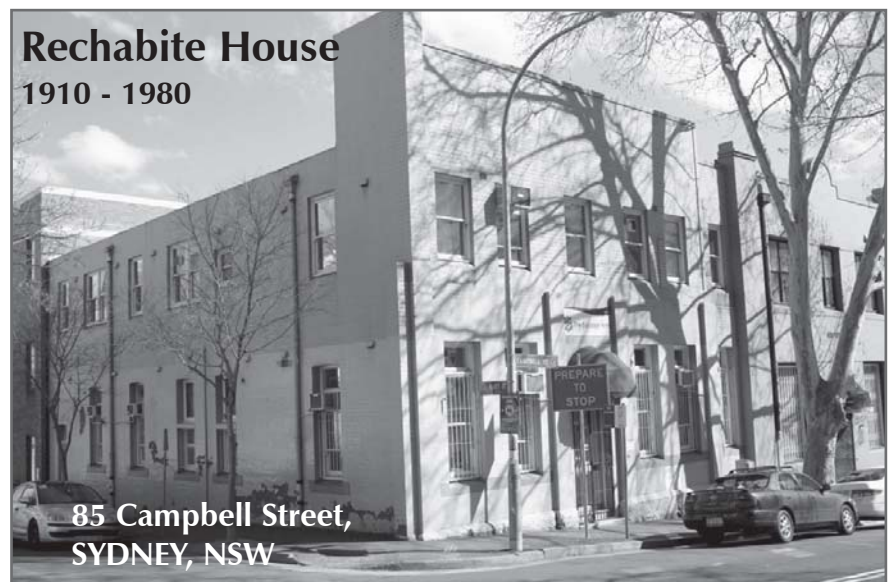
Our address is Mr John Garrett, painter, Sussex Street, near Bathurst Street, Sydney, New South Wales. IOR., please give my respects to all the brethren, accept the same yourself, and believe me in the bonds of our Order, - Yours, etc.

John Garrett, P.H.D.R.

Go to page 9 for the next chapter.



Foundation Stone laid
Bro John H Wise



Rechabite House
1910 - 1980

85 Campbell Street,
SYDNEY, NSW

With Anzac Day fast approaching and this year marking the 100th Anniversary of that fatal landing of so many British, Australian and New Zealand troops on the Beaches of Gallipoli in 1915, the following is to honour the memory of some Rechabites who served.

*Our **Bro John Flett** from Victoria District has given us some amazing facts and figures relating to Rechabites involved in both World Wars.*

IN World War 1, 792 Rechabites lost their lives. Seventy-one (71) members received seventy-seven (77) bravery decorations.

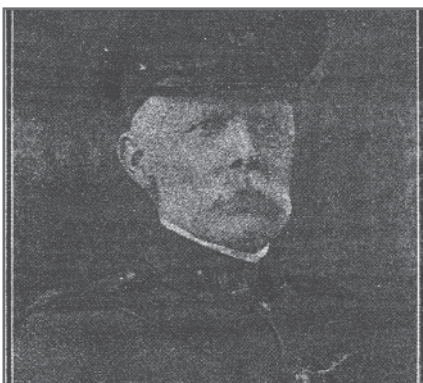
Perhaps the most famous Australian soldier to return from World War 1, (1914-1918), was Capt. Albert Jacka, V.C., M.C., and Bar who was a member of Wedderburn Tent No. 338 on enlisting. Regretfully he resigned his membership while serving overseas.

Capt. Jacka was not the only soldier from Wedderburn to be decorated, two others from this small country forestry and mining town of Victoria were also honoured.

Mercifully, World War 2, (1939-45), claimed only 132 of our members.

We honour just a few of those gallant members who served our country in time of war.

Bro Lieut-Col Robert Gartside Harcourt Tent No.104



BRO. Gartside joined the Citizen Force in 1885, rose to the rank of Sergeant and studied for a Commission. He volunteered for service in South Africa in 1900 and went as a Captain in the 3rd Victorian Bushman's Contingent. Severely wounded at Wols Kull, the hospital surgeon wanted to administer alcohol, but he refused to take it. He made a rapid recovery and on leaving, the surgeon told him his recovery was so quick as to be marvellous and that the fact he recovered was probably due to his life-long abstinence. He was awarded the Queen's Medal and three clasps.

With the outbreak of war in 1914, he was one of the first Victorian Officers to volunteer. He was given the rank of Major in the 7th Battalion. At Cape Helles, at the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula, there was a British force including the 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions of Australians and by this time Major Gartside has been promoted to Lieut-Colonel. On 8th May, the 7th Battalion was part of an attack on a hill town called Krithia that was due to commence at 10.30am. This was the same time a similar attack was repelled on the two preceding days.

In 'The Story of Anzac', Vol.2 by Charles Bean, he wrote: 'after 400 yards, Colonel Gartside was mortally wounded'. I have read that Colonel Gartside lead from the front and a footnote in the above book says: 'Gartside is said to have been rising to lead a further rush, saying, "come on boys, I know its deadly, but we must get on" when he was struck in the abdomen by machine gun fire'.

The article in 'The Rechabite' (Vic) of 8th June 1915, mentioned Bro Gartside 'passing through the chairs of Harcourt Tent No.104 twice.' A brother of his was Chief Ruler at the time our Brother was killed and a sister was Secretary.

**Bro Sargeant Alex M Wilson
D.C.M., M.M. & Bar
Yarraville Tent No.307**

Rechabites at War LEST WE FORGET



SARGEANT Wilson was the son of the Yarraville Tent Secretary and an active member of both the Junior Tent and then the Adult Tent. He was active in the Footscray Presbyterian Church. 'The Rechabite' (Vic) of 1st August 1918 in his Obituary gives the following:

"His Christian manliness influenced the lives of many. When billeted with a well-to-do family in France his hosts were surprised to hear that he had never tasted wine or other intoxicants. He and another Rechabite were appointed to serve the rum ration and both refused. They were not punished."

He received the D.C.M. at Passchendaele on 12th October 1917. There he was in charge of loading Horse Ambulances with the wounded, all the time under intense shell fire. He was conspicuous for gallantry and his constant cheery bandaging. At 5.00pm, when a road was blocked, he managed to get 60 squads to carry 30 wounded back to an advanced dressing station. He remained out over-night, without shelter and then went forward to Breman House and loaded ambulances until relieved on the evening of 13th.

He had previously received the M.M. for conspicuous devotion to the wounded, his coolness, energy and direction to the stretcher bearers at Armentieres on the night of February 26/27th 1917. He also received a Bar to the M.M. for conspicuous gallantry on the afternoon of 8th June 1917 near Ploegsteert Wood.

Bro Stoker
John James (Jack) Bray
Eaglehawk Tent No.14



Photo Courtesy of Bendigo Advertiser

BRO. Bray was a crew member on the AE1, one of the first two submarines in the Australian Navy when it was sunk in the Bismark Sea on 11th September 1914. The crew of AE1 was made up of 20 English Navy personnel of which Bro Bray was one (No.1604), 14 Australians and 1 New Zealand seaman. When the District Secretary unveiled the Eaglehawk Tent Honour Board he remarked that Bro Bray was the first Rechabite to give his life in the War.

In two publications, "Australian Naval Disasters" and "Bendigo Advertiser" of 22nd September 1914, one reads that Bro Bray left his parents home in Clark Street, Eaglehawk, a Cornish settlement, and went to England to join the Navy four years previously at age 15. He was noted as being on the HMAS *Australia* and then moving to HMAS *Penguin*. His name is also recorded on the Honour Board that was St Peter's, Eaglehawk and is now with the Eaglehawk Heritage Society.

Incidentally, the only other submarine Australia had at that time, the AE2, traversed the Dardenelles on 24th April and did make contact with the Flagship of the Fleet off Gallipoli, but Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton was in his cabin not "feeling well" and was not advised. The AE2 was sunk in the Sea of Marmara, but some of the crew escaped and were taken prisoner.

Footnote: The AE1 was an 'E' Class submarine commissioned at Portsmouth 28th February, 1914. An

English submarine E9 torpedoed the German Cruiser 'Hela' on 13th Sept. 1914.

Bro Flight-Lieut
Leslie G. Knight, D.S.O.
Camberwell Tent No.278



Some of the Australians on the Dam Buster Raid. Bro Knight is centre.

BRO. Knight was a Lancaster pilot of RAF Squadron 617 and a memorial plaque, a tribute from an IOR member, is in the Camberwell Uniting Church. At the unveiling on 14th September 1952, the Rev Harold Chambers read some excerpts from Paul Brickhill's book, "The Dam Busters": 'Knight was a young Australian who did not drink, his idea of a riotous evening being to write letters home and go to the pictures ... He dived to try again, made a perfect run ... and his bomb dropped in the right spot. Seconds later the water erupted and the wall of the dam burst open and the torrent came rushing out.' The dam was the Elder Dam and for this action Bro Knight was awarded the D.S.O.

Also Group Capt. Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C. writing in the "Sunday Graphic" of 9th December 1945 said: 'Les Knight was the captain of one of nine Lancasters that set out in September 1943 to deliver a low-level 12,000-lb bomb attack against the Dortmund-Ems Canal. In the face of formidable Ruhr defences and the extreme difficulty of map-reading in fog at tree-top level there was little chance of completing the attack.



**"Brave living here, beyond the grave,
 More life and more adventure for the brave"**

After persevering for 40 minutes Knight was hit by gunfire. His two starboard engines were put out of action, his tail-plane was severely damaged and his aircraft became virtually unmanageable. Given permission, he jettisoned his remaining bombs. Knight never lived to tell his story and of the nine aircraft on the mission only three returned to base.'

In his Obituary in the 1st March 1944 'The Rechabite' (Vic), his Co-pilot, F. O. Kellow is stated as advising Bro Knight's parents that Bro Knight managed to gain enough height to enable the crew to bail out safely, but was not able to himself before the aircraft crashed. He was posthumously Mentioned in Dispatches. Bro Knight was 22 years of age and is interred at Denham, Holland.

Bro Pilot-Officer
H. Mervyn Hall
Bendigo Tent No.5

BRO. Hall was a Halifax pilot of RAF Squadron No.51, based at Snaith, Yorkshire, who lost his life returning from a mission over Italy on the night of 10/11th April, 1944. His Halifax aircraft was shot down over France. He was able to retain control while three of his crew of seven were able to bail out before he and his three remaining crew lost their lives in the subsequent crash of the aircraft. They were interred in the Davenscourt Communal Cemetery.

Footnote: A Captain of a ship is expected to be the last to leave a sinking ship and would likely go down with it, we believe that is what happened to so many pilots of multi-crewed aircraft. ■

World War 1 photos taken from 1916 and 1918 copies of THE RECHABITE Victoria.



From the NSW State Chief Ruler

GREETINGS Rechabite Members. Another year has ended and a new one begun. I hope you all had a happy, holy and healthy Christmas and New Year Season and your God is with you for this year.

Last year was a shocker for the New South Wales Rechabites. At the Annual General Meeting we took a vote to see if the Rechabites in NSW will fold. The vote failed, as we needed 75% of the votes to close and we were 3 votes short. This meant we have to carry on till the next vote.

After the vote we had an election of officers and of the eight on the

committee last year only four stood for this year and no-one was prepared to stand from the floor. This left a nearly unworkable committee of four to decide what to do next. We have asked one other member to join the committee. So, the current committee is:

State Chief Ruler

Jeanette Sheldon

Deputy Chief Ruler

Gail Kalitatzis

Secretary/Treasurer

Malcolm Campbell

Committee Member

Jennifer Terry

Assistant Secretary

Peter Campbell

By the time you read this there will have been a meeting of Tent Secretaries and plans for a Special General Meeting.

I appeal to all NSW members, if you care about what happens to our Order and you are capable of attend-

ing a meeting, please make a point to come to this special meeting.

If you wish that the NSW State Committee continue, please be prepared to join that committee as we should have a committee of twelve and a committee of five is difficult. Also at the next October General Meeting I will not be able to stand as Chief Ruler as my two years will be up.

If the vote is too close, there will be some entities of like aims that will be asked to submit their aims and laws and a General Meeting of the members will decide where and how much of our money is distributed.

If the vote is too close, members will be able to transfer their membership to other states.

Please consider the future of our Order.

Jeanette Sheldon
State Chief Ruler NSW

Friendship Tent No.20 Strathfield

BELOW are the proposed outings for this year. We are flexible with our events, so, if anyone is interested in joining us they should ring Frank or Marcia Pidgeon on 9645 3458, or Gail Kalitatzis on 9670 4602.

Having met at Dorothy Cubbins home last February to plan our outings the following are suggestions.

March

Bus from Central to The Old Reservoir in Centennial Park.

April

Take a T2 bus from Parramatta to ?

May

A conducted stroll around Glebe.

June

Parliament House in Macquarie St.

July

Tour of an historic house in Darlinghurst.

August

Conducted stroll from Central to Victoria Park.

September

To be decided.

October

Leura Garden Festival. Train to Leura, shuttle bus to a garden.

November

Christmas Lunch.
Venue to be decided.

The 2015 Social Programme for NSW

THE following events are being planned for NSW Members to have fellowship with those who also enjoy a lifestyle without alcohol.

Saturday 28 March

Picnic at Little Bay

Saturday 13 June

Fish and Chips at Watson's Bay

Saturday 26 September

Visit to Vaucluse House

Saturday 28 November

Picnic at Clarks Point, Woolwich

Mark these dates in your diary.
We will look forward to seeing you.



NSW Rechabites Celebrate 130 Years

A LUNCHEON was held on Saturday 13th September 2014 at one of the function rooms of the Hornsby RSL to celebrate 130 years since the establishment of the **Independent Order of Rechabites, NSW District No.85** on the 24th September 1884.

This was followed by a number of members addressing the assembled company, including Sis Jeanette Sheldon, SCR; Sis Margaret Campbell, Bro Malcolm Campbell, Bro Malcolm Campbell, and Bro 'Ian Belcher.



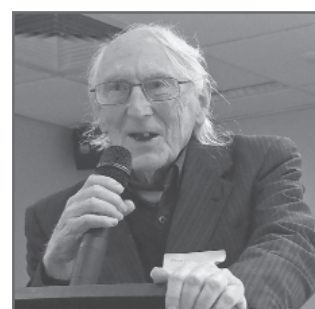
The current State Chief Ruler, Sister Jeanette Sheldon, addressing the audience with Bro R. G. Ennever's photo on the screen behind her.



Sis. Margaret Campbell



Memorabilia from many years brought back a lot of memories.



Bro Malcolm Campbell



The State Chief Ruler cuts the cake.



Bro V. ('Ian) A . Belcher



Regretfully *Jottings from Malcolm Campbell* arrived too late to be included in this NSW section of this issue. You will find them however, on page 14. Don't miss them.



Victorian News

From the Victorian State President

RECENTLY my wife and I attended a seminar hosted by the Australian Medical Association entitled "Enough is Enough". The seminar had a number of speakers, all from the medical profession, but importantly, all from emergency departments.

Their respective presentations centred on a survey, conducted over the last 12 months, of over 2,000 doctors and nurses in Australia and New Zealand emergency departments.

In short, the survey found the following disturbing statistics for that period: **98%** of emergency department personnel had suffered verbal aggression from drunk patients;

92% had experienced violent or physical threats from drunk patients; **87%** indicated that they had felt unsafe due the presence of a drunk patient;

94% indicated a drunk patient in an emergency department had a negative effect on the department's staff; and

88% indicated other patients' care was negatively affected with drunk patients in emergency departments.

Several anecdotes were also presented and the seminar put into perspective the terrors that emergency department professionals experience on a daily basis. We can only suspect that our paramedics and police must also experience a similar or perhaps worse situation on the streets as they generally confront the situation in the first instance. (See an English report on this very subject on page 18. Ed.)

Indeed, "Enough is Enough" and I thank you all for advancing the doctrines of our fraternity as we try to do our bit. Further information on the seminar is available from the website: www.acem.org.au/alcoholharmED

Now, on a more pleasant note, what a wonderful time of the year we have just experienced as we remembered the true meaning of Christmas and usually catch up with family and friends. I take this opportunity to wish you one and all a safe New Year and every success as we endeavour to promote the core values of the IOR Fraternity.

Geoff Legge
State President

2014 Victorian Annual Conference

THE Annual Conference was held in Belmont (Geelong) at the Parkside Motel and Conference Centre with the Motel accommodating all our delegates. It took place on two half days, Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd October, 2014, with a President's Night on Tuesday evening.

In the afternoon on Tuesday, Shane Varcoe from Delgrano Institute spoke to us. Shane is a very accomplished speaker. His informative presentation on the results of the use of drugs and alcohol held everyone spellbound.

After dinner on the Tuesday night we all partook in a relaxed evening of trivia, which was very much enjoyed by all.

The State Committee is to remain the same as the previous year to allow Brother Ron Pratt to recover from his illness.

The State Committee is:- State President

Bro Geoff Legge

Deputy State President

Bro Ron Pratt

Past State President

Bro Don Legge

State Officers

David McGee

Bro Allan Clark

State Office/State Secretary

Sis Gwenda Martyn

State Treasurer

Bro Innes Russell

The Conference in 2015 is planned to be held in the same Motel as 2014.

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



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

Victorian Fraternal News

AT THIS year's Conference, two Certificates of Appreciation were given. One was to **Bro Ron Warwick** who was Secretary of Tent No.1 until its closure in 2014. Ron has worked tirelessly for his Tent for many years. Tent No.1 used to meet each month.

Bro Ron is also in the Umpires AFL Hall of Fame in Victoria.



Bro Ron Warwick with his Certificate of Appreciation presented by the State President, Bro Geoff Legge.

The second Certificate was given to **Bro Graham Weatherhead** who was Secretary of *Drouin/Warragul Tent No. 267*, which also became a Non Meeting Tent in 2014.



Bro Graham Weatherhead with his Certificate of Appreciation presented by the State President, Bro Geoff Legge.

John Garrett, PHCR was to leave Sydney and go to Van Dieman's Land, that became Tasmania in 1856.

He set about to establish Rechabatism in Launceston. Regretfully the tents he established in Sydney were to flounder without his guidance.

The following gives a little information of what was to become the Independent Order of Rechabites in Australia as a result of that move.

THE *Star of Australia Felix Tent* was opened on 27th January 1847 in Launceston. The Tent became No. 4 Tent of the Van Dieman's Land District (Tasmania) and retained that number until the inauguration of the Victoria District in January 1861 and then became No. 1 Tent of the Victoria District.

The Tent's first meeting place in Victoria was in a two storey building in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. This building is still standing with "Independent Order of Rechabites" engraved on its front walls. It was to later find a home in the Temperance Hall in Russell Street, where it met for 92 years.

The Tent was represented in the Services at the bombardment of Alexandria, Egypt, in 1892, the Boer War of 1902 and the first World War 1914/18. That War saw 51 young members of Tent No.1 serve their country, six of them failing to return.

Following the First World War with the spread of the metropolis, many members moved out and became interested in their local tents. Some even opened tents in the areas where they resided.

The Tent has provided members who have served their country, their Order at District level and in other spheres. All District Secretaries' names have graced the the Pledge Book of the Tent. Tent No.1 was the oldest surviving Tent in Australasia. ■

Region News

Region 6 MORWELL (Gippsland)

OUR meeting in October 2014 was once again very successful, although we did have a lot of apologies. We start our day with the meeting, then break for lunch and after lunch we continue with an afternoon programme that includes a speaker to entertain and inform us.

Our Region is lucky to have the State President, the Deputy State President the Past State President and the State Secretary within its ranks, which does tend to make our Region very strong.

We also have members from Bunyip, Bairnsdale and Leongatha as well as locals attending our meeting and of course, all the spouses of the State Committee members.

During the meeting a **Certificate of Appreciation** was presented to **Bro Graham Weatherhead** for his time as Secretary of *Drouin/Warragul Tent No. 267* which has become a Non Meeting Tent. Bro Graham was a wonderful Secretary for his Tent, but low membership has forced it to cease meeting on a regular basis.

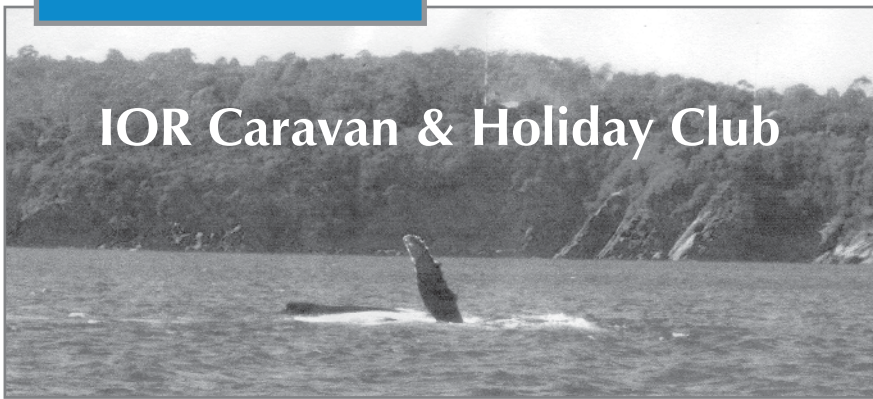
We are now having to supply our own lunches, and our thanks to Gwenda and Peg for supplying a beautiful lunch for us.

After lunch we enjoyed an illustrated talk by Gwenda on her recent trip to Vietnam, showing us what a different world it is and only a short distance from Australia.

Region 6 Meeting is sometimes the only IOR meeting that some of our members can attend, so it is of great importance to them. If you are a member within this Region and don't attend, consider joining us at the our **NEXT MEETING on Saturday, 25th April, 2015**

Continued on page 10 ►►►

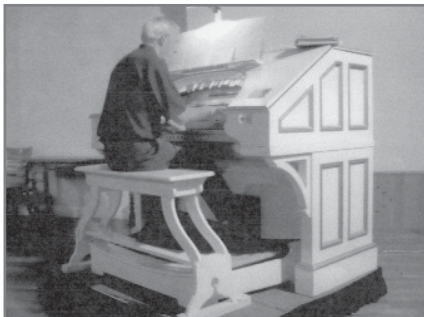
IOR Caravan & Holiday Club



Having a whale of a time Whale Watching

ON MONDAY 27th to Friday, 31st October, 2014, 31 members, including 5 'first timers', had a most enjoyable 5 day Coach Tour to Eden on the Sapphire Coast, NSW, staying the first night at Lakes Entrance.

We left Salford Park in pouring rain and then found there was an accident on the Freeway so bumper to bumper traffic was diverted to get us to Hallam and eventually on to the Freeway to Wesley of Warragul, to hear a recital on the magnificent Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ, 1½ hours late and still raining!



The Wurlitzer Organ being played

The people at Wesley of Warragul put on a wonderful performance on the Organ and sometimes accompanied on the Grand Piano. This was quite a highlight of the tour.

After staying the night at Lakes Entrance we headed on to Mario for lunch and then on to Eden for the next three nights.

The following day, (Day 3) we went on a Whale Watching Cruise. What a magnificent sight to see the hump-back whales carrying out behaviours such as tail flapping, fin waving, putting on a real show for anyone watching, as well as little penguins, seals, dolphins and sea birds.

On the same day, we also visited the Killer Whale Museum, which was originally built to house the skeleton of Old Tom, a local Killer Whale. Today the museum houses a range of artefacts and provides information on fishing and maritime history, the timber industry as well as the local whaling industry. A visit to the historic Seahorse Inn at Boydtown, that dates back to 1843, was also included in the day's programme.

Day 4 we visited Pambula with our destination being the Oyster Farm where many members sampled the oysters that were provided. We went on from here to Merimbula Aquarium to see everything from sharks to shrimps, octopi to tropical fish in their 27 tanks.

After lunch at the Aquarium, we travelled on to Bega, to visit the

Oyster sampling



famous "Bega Cheese" where we sampled some of their products.

All too soon Friday had arrived and we have to head for home stopping at Bairnsdale for lunch before travelling on to Wantirna.

It was a wonderful trip that was enjoyed by all, in spite of the rain on day one.

The **NEXT TRIP** for the Holiday Club is to Beautiful Bright from **23rd to 27th March 2015.**

Anyone is welcome to join the **IOR Caravan & Holiday Club**, and you don't have to be an IOR Member to join in. Membership is just \$2.00 per annum. ■

Region News

▶▶▶ *Continued from page 9*

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.

Gwenda Martyn
Secretary Region 6

Region 7 HARCOURT (Central Victoria)

I REGRET that we were unable to have our meeting last October, but our next meeting is due on **15th March 2015 commencing at 12.30pm**, hopefully with a lunch depending on numbers attending, at our usual place, Bingham Road, Harcourt. For catering purposes please advise your intended attendance by ringing me on **9306 4968**. Thank you.

John Flett
Secretary Region 7

Region Meeting Dates for 2015 - Victoria

Date		Region Secretary	Tel. No.	District
February	Sunday 8th	4/5 D McGee	9598 7840	Mordialloc
March	Sunday 15th	7 J Flett	9306 4968	Harcourt
March	Wednesday 18th	9 L Jukes	5762 5584	Kyabram
April	Saturday 25th	6 G Martyn	5177 8144	Morwell
May	Sunday 3th	4/5 D McGee	9598 7840	Mordialloc
September	Wednesday 16th	9 L Jukes	5762 5584	Kyabram
October	Sunday 18th	7 J Flett	9306 4968	Harcourt
October	Saturday 24th	6 G Martyn	5177 8144	Morwell
November	Sunday 8th	4/5 D McGee	9598 7840	Mordialloc

The Report of the Queensland IOR District No.87 Annual District Council Meeting for 2014

THE Annual District Council incorporating the Annual General Meeting of the Independent Order of Rechabites Queensland District No. 87 Inc. was held on Saturday 18th October 2014 in the Wellers Hill-Tarragindi Uniting Church Hall, Pope Street, Tarragindi.

This was our seventh annual meeting conducted under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and was chaired by the District Chief Ruler Sis Glenys Harbottle. Fifteen members were in attendance.

The former District Chief Ruler, Sis Cynthia Kilah and the current District Chief Ruler, Sis Glenys Harbottle addressed the meeting. Following this, 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 officer bearers for the biennial period 2014-2016.

Sis Harbottle, DCR, declared the following members in their nominated position as there were insufficient nominations to hold elections.

Sis Glenys Harbottle, *Hearts of Oak Tent No.29* automatically progressed to the chair of District Chief Ruler, having served as District Deputy Ruler.

Bro Noel Andrews, *David Livingstone Tent No. 5*, was declared as District Deputy Ruler.

Sister Cynthia Kilah, *Annerley Tent No. 67* was installed as Immediate Past District Chief Ruler.

Sis Cynthia Kilah, *Annerley Tent No.67* was declared as District Secretary.

Bro Peter Henderson, *Annerley Tent No.67* continues as District Treasurer.

Two District Officers were declared, Sis Margaret Andrews, *David Livingstone Tent No.5* and Bro Jim MacDonald, *Star of Mackay Tent No. 21*.

The Annual Report of the District Executive, the Report of the Rechabite Social Activities Committee, and reports on the ongoing work of the Australian Rechabite Foundation and DrugARM were received after the completion of the statutory business required by the Act.

The next agenda item was consideration of the annual membership fee. Following the District Executive meeting held earlier in the afternoon, the District Treasurer presented the District Executive's proposal that it

would be reasonable to increase the membership fee to offset some of the annual costs and to reduce the budgeted deficit.

It was suggested that the annual membership be \$22.00 per member, inclusive of GST. A number of members made comment for and against the proposed increase. Bro Henderson then moved that the annual membership fee for 2015 be set at \$22.00, including GST. This was seconded by Sis M. Andrews. The District Chief Ruler called for a show of hands. The motion was CARRIED with 10 members voting for the motion with 2 members against. There were 2 abstentions.

The District Chief Ruler was pleased to announce a Meritorious Service Award for Bro Ian Belcher. See article on page 13. Unfortunately Bro Belcher had sent his apology for the meeting so arrangements were made to present the award at the 2014 Christmas Party.

With the meeting drawing to a close, Sis Harbottle invited Bro Noel and Sis Margaret Andrews, both PDCRs, with the assistance of Sis Judy Swan, to carry out the installation of the members of the District Executive.

The District Chief Ruler closed the meeting at 4.15pm with an invitation to remain for afternoon tea. ■



Left to right: **Sis Margaret Andrews, DO; Bro Noel Andrews, DDR; Sis Glenys Harbottle, DCR; Bro Jim MacDonald, DO; Sis Cynthia Kilah, PDCR, DS; Bro Peter Henderson, DT.**



The IOR Queensland Christmas Party 2014

OUR Christmas Party once again provided the opportunity for the young and the slightly older! to enjoy fellowship, fun and food. There was something for all.

Our Carol singing was the envy of many choirs! Santa delighted the children with his presence (and presents) and especially by receiving information on his mobile phone.

Unfortunately, our friends from *Hope of Ipswich Tent No.2* were unable to join us this year, but we look forward to catching up with them in February.

A surprise event this year for one person was the presentation of a Meritorious Service Award to Bro 'Ian Belcher by newly appointed District Chief Ruler, Sis Glenys Harbottle. Brother Ian expressed his thanks to the Ipswich Tent for nominating him and to the Order. He also acknowledged his wife Sis Rae for her wonderful help.

It wouldn't be a party organised by Annerley/Livingstone Tents on behalf of the Order without concluding the evening with the hearty singing of Auld Lang Syne accompanied on the piano by our wonderful Sis Cecily Walker who finished off the evening by chatting with Sis Kathy Cross, Jean Tune, Sis Judy Harbottle and Sis Joan Chapman, the awesome four!

Our grateful thanks to Sis Margaret and Bro Noel Andrews and their helpers for all their efforts to make the evening so enjoyable.

Sis Judy Swan
Annerley Tent No.67



The Awesome Four



Bob & Cathy Cross left, Judy Harbottle left rear, Keith Tune right front with daughter Melissa and Jean Tune.



Cecily Walker
our accomplished pianist



Margaret & Noel Andrews front L & R and Family.



Left - Right John Thompson, Joan Chapman, Relma Laverty, Judy Swan, Richard Swan, Cec Devereux, 'Ian Belcher



The Henderson Family, Janet left, Peter right

*Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year*



Queensland District presents a Meritorious Service Award

"On behalf of the members of Hope of Ipswich Tent No.2, we nominate Bro. Vivian Arthur Belcher for a Meritorious Service Award"
Tent Correspondence 17 May 2014

The members of *Hope of Ipswich Tent No. 2* have nominated and the Executive of the **Independent Order of Rechabites Queensland District No. 87** has approved that Bro Vivian (Ian) Arthur Belcher be presented with a Meritorious Service Award.

Ian has a long association with the Independent Order of Rechabites. Fraternal friends throughout Australia affirm that Ian has given exceptional service to our Rechabite Fraternities since commencing work at the New South Wales District Office on 30 June 1975.

In 1978, what was then the New South Wales Rechabite magazine began to be produced, printed and assembled "in house" with Ian becoming the printer. As record keeping became more computerised, Ian moved into new roles which he continued until his retirement on 30th September 1998. Even though retired, he and his lovely wife, Rae, continued to produce the New South Wales magazine on his home computer, with printing, assembling and posting being handled by a third party. Both Ian and Rae were the secretaries of Tents No 116 (Chatswood) and No 144 (Concord) until these tents closed.

Queensland is indeed fortunate to have inherited Ian's many skills and gifts. When Ian and Rae returned to Brisbane in 2000, they moved their tent membership to Queensland to be part of the local scene becoming active members of *Hope of Ipswich Tent No. 2*.

Ian continues to produce our magazine, ***The Australian Rechabite***. The magazine is an integral part of our organisation and is always of a very high standard. The old adage "behind every good man is a great woman" perhaps can be applied to Ian and Rae. We acknowledge and express our appreciation for the considerable effort that Rae has contributed until recently, when ill health made it impossible for her to continue.

It is with great pleasure that the **Independent Order of Rechabites Queensland District No. 87 Inc.** presents Ian with this Meritorious Service Award for his outstanding commitment to the Independent Order of Rechabites.



Meritorious Service Award
approved by The
Queensland Fraternal
Executive
5th July 2014.

Bro 'Ian Belcher was presented with his award at the metropolitan Christmas Party held on Saturday, 13th December 2014.

Two Tents say, "Goodbye" but carry on!

David Livingstone Tent No. 5 and Annerley Tent No. 67 say goodbye to their meeting place.

On 29 July 2014, members of Tents Nos. 5 and 67 met in the Cracknell Road Uniting Church Jubilee Hall for the last time. Although the Tents remain active, it was time to say goodbye to our meeting place. *Annerley Tent No. 67* has been meeting here for more than 60 years.

Members were very pleased to welcome Sis Brooke Kilah to the meeting. She was visiting from Canberra.

The Jubilee Hall, as a facility of the then Cracknell Road Congregational Church, was opened in 1952. IOR meetings had been held in this church's premises from that time and in fact, records show that the IOR had used the church's facilities since the late 1920s.

While the evening could have been a very sad affair, it proved to be a wonderful time to reminisce. Who could forget the Christmas parties, the late Bro Ernie Hunt's Christmas lights displays, the late Bro Stan Mason's sausage rolls for supper, many games of indoor bowls and setting up the hall in preparation for a local 'seniors' group meeting on the following day, the fun and laughter and the esteemed members of the Tents?

Many of the members also remembered their attendance at the *Crystal Spring Juvenile Tent No.50* meetings in the same hall. We recalled providing entertainment, ball game competitions, square relays and of course the fun and games of the Christmas parties.

As a final farewell to the hall, the "younger" members - Sis Margaret Andrews, Bro Peter Henderson, Sis Judy Swan and Sis Cynthia Kilah -

Continued on page 14 ▶▶▶

▶▶▶ Continued from page 13

participated in a square relay. We may no longer have the speed we once had, but we have many wonderful memories to take with us.

Both *David Livingstone Tent No. 5* and *Annerley Tent No. 67* now meet on the first Tuesday of every month in the **Wellers Hill - Tarragindi Uniting Church House, Pope Street Tarragindi at 7.30pm.**

For more information please contact the Tent Secretaries - Sis Margaret Andrews 07 3208 1848 and Bro Peter Henderson 0419 640 493.

*(I'm so pleased to learn it's **where**, not **how**, they are going to **carry on**! Yet maybe it might be both - why not join them and see. You would be most welcome. See below. Ed.)*

Tent News

David Livingstone Tent No. 5 and Annerley Tent No. 67 enjoyed their 'extra-curricular' activities in 2014. Perhaps you may care to join them in some of the activities planned for 2015 including:



Members of David Livingstone Tent No. 5 and Annerley Tent No. 67 saying "Goodbye", but ready to carry on!

- a visit to the 9th Battalion's Museum located at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera
- a visit to Mt Gravatt lookout followed by a picnic lunch
- a trip down memory lane at the Queensland Telecommunications Museum
- dining out opportunities
- attendance at a local theatre group's performance

- a morning at the Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens

For further details please contact Bro Peter Henderson on 0419 640 493 or Sis Judy Swan on 0419 785 039.

You are also welcome to attend our Tent meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month at **7.30pm in the church house of the Wellers Hill Tarragindi Uniting Church, 24 Pope Street, Tarragindi.**



Jottings from Malcolm Campbell

CENTRAL to the 130th Annual General Conference of the NSW Fraternity held on 18th October, 2014 was the special resolution that the NSW Rechabite Fraternity be wound up in accordance with the Rules and the Incorporated Associations Articles. Although passed by the majority it did not obtain the 75% requirement. Thus a smaller Committee continues to work. To those who were unable to continue we express our thanks and appreciation for your past services and fellowship.

During this year was also the 130th Anniversary Luncheon held at Hornsby RSL on 13th September, 2014. There was a considerable amount of memorabilia on display.

Special thanks to those who came to the picnic at Lake Gillawarna, Georges Hall on Saturday 29th November, 2014. The major activity enabled the Calendars for 2015 to be sent out early. There has been favourable comment too about the quality.

Reports are sought from organisations to which donations are made by the NSW Fraternity at the Annual Conference. The business paper for the Conference contains a Report for the *Australian Rechabite Foundation* including its Grants Program.

Tax Deductible Donations can also be made by individuals to Dalgarno Institute (COADE Inc.) which brings out a brochure at times during the year. It is called the "Fence Builder" and usually includes some startling statistics about illicit drug users and those experiencing violence as a direct result.

STATE NEWS - NSW

Information on the work of W.C.T.U. Australia (Newcastle Circle) with children and parents in the area is also received. This includes an outing to Blackbutt Reserve in 2014.

Our September 2014 *The Australian Rechabite* magazine contained an article on earlier pub closing times and the reduction in alcohol-fuelled assaults. The reaction from the alcohol lobby is now to hand. We must remain strong and make our views known. There was also a good article on the late Bro Kevin Bagot.

New Year Greetings to all.

Malcolm Campbell
State Secretary

Secretary: *Excelsior Tent No.8*
Campsie Tent No.81
Tel: (02) 9558 9800

In Remembrance

Sister Vera Blackmore, PCR

OUR very dear **Sis Vera Blackmore** passed away on Thursday, 17th July, 2014 at the Dousta Galla Nursing Home in Avondale Heights. She was 93 years of age.

The funeral service was held at Joseph Alison Chapel in Essendon on 24th July. The service was a wonderful celebration of Vera's life.

Sis Vera was a member of *Northcote Tent No.217* for over 60 years and she was a tireless worker for the Order. Vera, along with her husband Don, were connected with the Juniors for many years. She was Chief Ruler of the Tent on several occasions and always held an office. She was very busy in the social activities of the Tent and Northern Group, and a keen indoor bowler.

Vera served as a Steward for many years and was Tent Representative for Northcote and Glenroy Tents.

After the sale of the Northcote IOR Hall in 1995, meetings were held at Vera's home, 150 Raleigh Street, Thornbury, until she went into the nursing home in 2007. Bro Don passed away in 2005.

On a personal note, as the writer of this obituary, it has been a great privilege for me to have known Vera and Don for almost 50 years and we have enjoyed a great friendship over those years.

As a final tribute and farewell to Sister Vera, below is the poem that was read at her service.

Moving On

You can shed tears that she's gone
Or you can smile because she lived.

You can close your eyes and pray she'll come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she's left you.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love you've shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember her and only that she's gone,
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind,
Be empty and turn your back,

Or you can do what she'd want
Smile, open your eyes, love and live life to the full.

Sister Vera Blackmore

15/08/1920 – 17/07/2014

Prepared by Shirley Donnison
Secretary
Northcote Tent No. 21



Sister Beverly Williams

ALTHOUGH it is over 12 months since **Sis Beverly Williams** passed away she was a close Rechabite friend of our New South Wales State Chief Ruler, Sis Jeanette Sheldon, who suffered the loss of her husband just seven months previously.

Bev was born on 6th April 1956, the third daughter of the McDonald Family, and was a granddaughter of William James, Past Chief Ruler and Secretary of *Campsie Tent No. 81*.

At not quite 58 years of age, Bev was promoted to Glory on 21st February, 2014, after a long struggle with her health, leaving behind her husband David and their children Mark and Rebecca.

The loss of these two people in Sis Jeanette's life has been very hard for her to cope with and is reason she has not shared this news before. We do extend our deepest sympathy to the family and to our State Chief Ruler.

06/04/1956 - 21/02/2014

Strictly Personal ...



TOO late to record in the September 2014 issue, but too precious to ignore, is the 100th Birthday of **Brother Gordon Lloyd**, formerly of *Hornsby Tent No. 114*, one of the Tents I, your Editor, was originally employed to take care of at the NSW District Office.



*Photo by Natalie Staff,
a grand-daughter of Gordon's.*

The following has been written by his 13-year-old Great Granddaughter, Siobhan.

"My great-grandfather, Gordon Lloyd, a resident of Asquith for many years, recently celebrated his 100th Birthday with his family and friends at Bowden Brae Gardens, Normanhurst, where he now resides. This was on Saturday 6th September, although he officially turned one hundred on Wednesday 10th September 2014.

Shortly after arriving at the gathering, Great Grandpa mentioned that he had been alive for 36,525 days! He received many letters of congratulations from important people including the mayor of Hornsby Shire, the Speaker of the NSW Parliament, local MPs both state and federal, the Premier, the Governor, the Prime Minister, the Governor-General, and his personal favourite, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Of Great Grandpa's four children, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, most were present for the occasion. There were also six nephews and three nieces present.

Some of the younger great-grandchildren assisted in blowing out the candles on the birthday cake. Gordon was very independent as he cut his

cake, because he didn't require any help!

Great Grandpa has lived through many events in Australia through his life including the invention of the lawn mower, the Hills Hoist clothes-line and the production of Vegemite!

A great day was had by all in celebrating this milestone in Gordon's life."

*Siobhan Lloyd
(Great-Granddaughter)*

Gordon and his wife Heather Shae had four children, Geoffrey, Norman, Susanne and Wendy. They lived much of their lives at Asquith. Heather passed away 15 years ago. Siobhan is Geoff's Granddaughter.

THERE was one person missing from the New South Wales Rechabite 130th Celebrations whom we had half expected to be present and that was our former District Secretary, **Bro E. (Ted) D. Peachey**. We know he is getting on in years, but it would have been a joy to have had him present with us.

We have since found out that he had a good excuse for not attending. He was rather busy as he wrote, "I was celebrating my 87th Birthday... visiting the Buckingham Palace State Rooms and having lunch at the garden café prior to walking out through the gardens to the exit." His birthday was a few days after our celebrations.



Bro Ted Peachey on holiday in UK

We wondered whether Bowral might have been too far for him to come,

but you must agree it was a bit far to expect him to come from the UK. It was great to learn he was able to go and enjoy the company of his son and daughter and to see so much. We have seen his extensive itinerary! So, although missed, he is forgiven.

SADLY our Victorian State Deputy President is on the sick list. **Bro Ron Pratt** has not been well since June 2014. When this report was forwarded to our Editor, Ron is in the Traralgon Hospital and he is hoping to be able to go back to his property in Coalville (near Moe). If he is not able to go home to his property he will be entering a Care Facility in the area. Ron is fighting a blood infection at the moment. We extend our best wishes to Ron and wish him a very speedy recovery.

WE are thrilled to announce that **Sis Elizabeth Dawson Jordan** (Liz to her friends) of *Hope of Ipswich Tent No. 2* celebrated her 103rd Birthday last January.

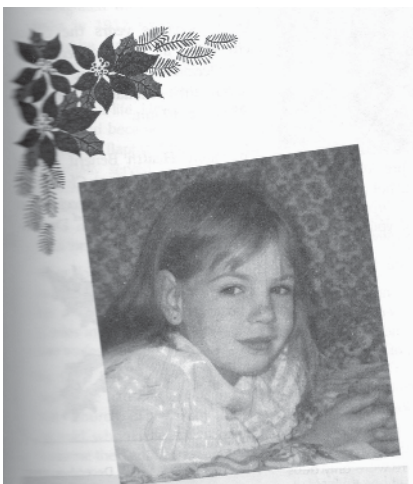


Sis Liz Jordan

Your Editor had the privilege of sharing a Birthday morning tea with her and her son and daughter-in-law. Still living on her own in her own home, Liz has been there 80 years now, so she knows her way around. She doesn't bounce quite as readily as she used to but doesn't take any cheek and loves to keep me in check.

Our Liz is a gracious but grand lady, who is a lot of fun to be with and we wish her every happiness in her remaining years. ■

ANONYMOUSLY featured as the cover girl on the December 1997 issue of *The NSW Rechabite*, I discovered a story about this little girl, whilst doing some research on another matter. It comes from *Strictly Personal* in the December 1995 issue. In view of recent events I could not resist reprinting it. But before we do, and aware that Christmas is long past, I first reprint the material that Kimberly illustrated. Without being sacrilegious, I think you may see a slight connection with what follows.



The Worth of a Soul

*What is a soul? Is it totally invisible?
Is it just a theological concept?*

*It is the spiritual and immortal part
of us humans; the moral and
emotional element of our nature.*

*Look into this child's eyes.
Do you see happiness and hope;
an early notion of God who knows
and loves her?*

*Is our soul important?
God considered it so.
He sent His Son, to be born of a
woman, born under the law,
to redeem those under the law
that we might receive the full rights
of sons.*

*Redeem what? Our souls!
The immortal part of you.
What joy Christmas should impart
as we contemplate this wonderful
truth.*

**Joy to the World!
The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King.**

**May you and our children know that
joy, and the peace of an alcohol and
drug free lifestyle in (up-dated)
2015.**

Now from *Strictly Personal*
The NSW Rechabite December 1995

BUT NOT ON SHANK'S PONY

IT IS only a 15 minute walk to pre-school, but YOUTH Member **Kimberly Belcher** (4) of *Chatswood Tent No. 116*, thinks it would be better to ride – but not by car! A pony was the request of the day. And why not? Her great grandfather rode a pony to school, - five miles away over the creek. The request was denied on the grounds that “the yard was not big enough for a pony”. Her reply, “We can move the fence back!”



Well, 20 years later, unable to move the fence bordering on Government land, Kimberly's yearning to own a horse has been fulfilled elsewhere.

We have included Kimberly's rather lengthy love story here, hoping you will enjoy it. It is worth the read. *Ed.*

UNDERWEIGHT, physically and emotionally damaged I purchased a horse named ‘Chief’ on 9th May last year. Months earlier, I had had a little bit to do with ‘Chief’, a 16.2hh black horse, whilst attending the riding school he was at, but didn't know how to pick the signs of the neglect and mistreatment he was enduring. We all always wondered why he was so grumpy, but despite his grumpy tenancies, the 8 year old gelding stole my heart.

I changed riding schools and quickly became good friends with my new horse riding instructors, Elizabeth ‘Liz’ Brown and Shanks Jeffcott, and before long moved in with them, and began working with their herd.

I realised very quickly the difference in care, and how much happier this herd was compared to the other herd. I often thought about ‘Chief’, but had lost contact.

When I heard early in April that the old riding school was closing down and ‘Chief’ was up for sale, I asked if my housemates would come with me

to look at him. I was heartbroken when I saw him, he was obviously underfed, very poorly shod and had been worked with a shoulder injury, to the point that he moved with a limp.

The woman selling him saw no issue with his current condition, and had a very high price on him. I talked to Liz and Shanks about wanting to purchase him so I could rescue him, but I did not yet have the skill to take on an injured horse on my own; I would need their support.

My housemates have had a great success rate with nursing injured, neglected and abused horses back to health, and they offered to partner with me and teach me how to care for him. But, they warned me, “he may never be 100% sound”. The woman selling him was vague about the details of his injury, and without knowing the extent of the damage, there was no guarantee he'd totally heal. I might never be able to ride him. Nevertheless, I was determined, even if he ended up as a ‘paddock pony’ I'd be happy, he would be safe and looked after.

Together, my housemates and I approached his owner again and voiced our concerns for him. We had spoken to her a few times and she had refused to drop the price, but this day, she must have changed her mind, as we talked her down to half the asking price, which was still over what he was worth in his current condition.

Continued on page 19 ►►►



*The Victorian State President,
Bro Geoff Legge
reviewed facts gleaned
from an Australasian
Seminar on the effects of
drunken patients on
medical staff.*

*The following looks at the
problem from the English
policeman's perspective.*

Police Officers feel the real impact of alcohol in North East England

AN INDICATION of the professional and private burden of alcohol-related crime on the police is provided by a report from **Balance**, the North East Alcohol Office. The report, "The Impact of Alcohol on Policing in the North East", surveyed 1,100 frontline officers across the region's three forces – Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria – to understand further alcohol's impact on the frontline and to gain their perceptions on the issue.

One finding was that over 80% of police reported being subjected to an alcohol-related assault during their career, with one being assaulted six or more times. It also emerged that new recruits are warned that they will probably be the victim of an alcohol-related assault before the end of their first year in the force.

Headline Findings

All officers agree that alcohol contributes to domestic violence – 93% said that it has a 'large impact' and 7% said it has 'some impact'.

A majority of officers (6 in 10) said alcohol related crime and disorder takes up at least half of their time while 1 in 10 say it constitutes 80 – 100% of their workload.

97% feel at risk of physical assault when policing the night-time economy (NTE).

1 in 5 officers have been subject to six or more alcohol related assaults

during their career. Only 14% have never been subjected to an alcohol related assault.

New recruits are always warned that they will probably be the victim of an alcohol related assault before the end of their first year in the force.

Almost 9 out of 10 officers believe cheap alcohol contributes to alcohol related crime and disorder.

Incentives to work the NTE are wearing thin. Almost 9 in 10 said time off in lieu was unattractive and less than half said the offer of overtime pay was attractive. However, overtime is still sought after to deal with other issues.

More than a third of officers are asked either every shift or most shifts to work additional hours in the NTE.

More than 8 in 10 officers see proxy provision of alcohol to under 18s as having an impact on alcohol related crime and disorder.

In the North East during 2010 there were an estimated 300 alcohol related road traffic accidents which resulted in death or serious injury. The estimated cost of a fatal accident on a British road is £1.8m.

On a weekday evening shift nearly every single person being dealt with or arrested is intoxicated through alcohol misuse.

Officers often have to deal with alcohol related anti-social behaviour from children as young as eleven years old.

During 2010/11 more than £316m was spent dealing with an estimated 213,000 alcohol related crimes. This equates to £75.1m in Durham, £81.8m in Cleveland and £159.6m in Northumbria force areas.

In England and Wales alcohol misuse contributed to a cost of £7.6bn for crime and licensing.

Inspector Colin Dobson, from

Durham Constabulary's Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit said:

"While crimes rates are falling in the three force areas in the North East, the link between cheap alcohol and crime and disorder is undeniable.

"We have to deal with the problems relating to alcohol on a daily basis and our officers see first-hand the major impact that this is having on individuals and our communities – as well as the personal risk to our officers. Almost 9 in 10 officers said that they believe cheap alcohol attributes to alcohol related crime and disorder. This needs to change.

"We, along with thousands of others across the North East, believe that a minimum unit price on alcohol is needed to reduce alcohol consumption in the region – and also reduce crime in our communities.

"The freedom sections of the alcohol industry are being given to sell certain products at pocket money prices is at the expense of valuable communities and our frontline public services. Each year in the North East millions of pounds are being spent to deal with 200,000 alcohol related crimes – and this picture is being repeated across the country."

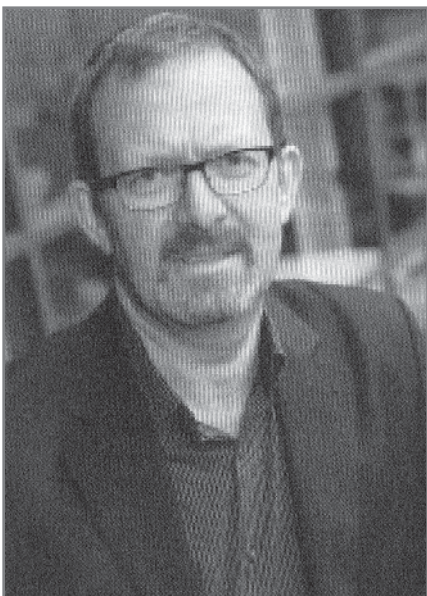
Around half of all violent crime in England and Wales is alcohol-related and studies have shown that, as alcohol consumption increases, so does violent offending. People who drink before going out for the night are more likely to be involved in a fight and around half of all violent incidents take place at the weekend when binge drinking is at its peak. Alcohol is also linked with 39% of domestic violence cases.

Colin Shevills, Director of Balance, said:

"Alcohol is having an impact on every part of our society – and policing is no different. It is costing our forces in terms of time, expenditure and ►►

►► vital resources – it is also putting officers at risk.

“One of the main factors is that alcohol continues to be too affordable, too available and too widely promoted. We know that the more affordable alcohol is, the more people consume. We therefore urge the Government to stand firm on its commitment to introduce a minimum unit price on alcohol.



Colin Shevills
Director of Balance

“A minimum unit price will make cheap, strong alcohol less affordable to the vulnerable younger and heavier drinkers who are more likely to drink it and suffer the consequences. If set at 50p, research carried out by the University of Sheffield indicates that after ten years, every year in England it will cut crimes by 48,500. It would only cost a moderate drinker an extra 28p per week and wouldn't affect the price of a pint in a community pub. We believe it is a price worth paying.

“Here in the North East we know that it is needed and it is wanted – evidence also tells us that it works. Importantly most people in the region have backed calls for the introduction of a minimum unit price. It is supported by our police. It is supported by the majority of the North East public. It is supported by our GPs and it is supported by our publicans.” ■

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A gentleman who had known ‘Chief’ at the riding school before it closed down, was also keen to save him, and he offered to pay a percentage of the cost for ‘Chief’, so that I could take him on, and he wouldn't be refused; so together we purchased him. Our herd were very excited to meet ‘Chief’, who was timid when he arrived, so we introduced them gradually, and my work began.

First things first though; I changed his name, as ‘Chief’ didn't seem to fit him and I felt that a new life for this black beauty deserved a new name. So I named him ‘**Faramir**’ after one of my favourite book characters, a noble man, who comes back from a near fatal injury to live out a happy life. I thought it most fitting.

Liz is certified in equine management and has studied horse nutrition at length. She designed a feeding plan for him, starting him on small portions of appropriate feed, working him up to a full mixed serving right for his size, together with a mix of herbs to assist with the healing of the muscle damage and inflammation.

We trimmed his hooves to begin the healing process for his leg joints. His hooves had been kept too long, which equates to a human walking around with tennis balls permanently stuck under the balls of their feet. Our Farrier was appalled at the condition of his feet and we've been working together to realign his legs. He's also been seen by our horse chiropractor, who popped and cracked him back into place.

Under instruction, I started working with ‘Faramir’, once he was settled in and on a full feed serving. Like a personal trainer and physiotherapist, we began teaching him to move properly and how to engage the right muscles. He has slowly built up his strength.

The other obstacle we've had to overcome is his distrust of humans, as until now, people have meant hard work and pain. Through my body language and interaction with him, I've been able to show him that I'm a safe and fair leader, but this will be an ongoing process.

After about 2 months on the property, ‘Faramir’ started to show his personality. He's so cute, he loves to pick things up (tarp, bucket, lead-rope, ball, stick, etc.) and run around with it. Horses ONLY play when they feel safe.



‘Faramir’ tossing a tarp for fun

Five months on, after being fed well, now shod on his front hooves, ‘chiropractically’ adjusted and exercised gradually, I was able to ride him for the first time on 10th October 2014. It was a beautiful experience to share with him, he's 100% sound on one side, about 90% sound on the other, still taking the occasional odd step, but is still improving the more we work with him.



He has a beautiful strong shape, a good bone structure, and we've built muscle back onto him. Liz described him as a ‘natural athlete’ and together, ‘Faramir’ and I can do anything! ■

Kimberly E. Belcher

Station Launch Officer
United Christian Broadcasters Australia Ltd

Underage Drinkers

“turning to online retailers to buy alcohol”

SIGNIFICANT numbers of children and young people in Wales are turning to online supermarket grocery services in order to buy alcohol, according to *Alcohol Concern* Wales.

The report, called *On your doorstep*, highlights the findings from a Wales-wide survey of minors aged between 14 and 17 years old. Some 15% of the respondents who had previously bought or attempted to buy alcohol for themselves or someone else, had successfully purchased alcohol via the internet, the majority of whom regarded it as “easy” to do so and an effective way to bypass age verification checks.

Alongside the survey, in March 2013, South Wales Police undertook a test purchase-operation in Cardiff with 15 year olds, to find out whether they were able to buy alcohol from major supermarket grocery websites.

It found that alcohol could be bought online from these sites with relative ease, by simply agreeing to the website terms and conditions, and being in possession of a debit card and an email address. In 44% of the test cases, alcohol was then handed to the underage test purchasers in person without any requests for proof of age, despite published supermarket policies which state they will not deliver to under 18s.

Mark Layshon, Policy and Research Officer at Alcohol Concern, said:

“The process of purchasing alcohol online, for example via supermarket websites, is unique in that the sale is made in private and with relative anonymity, away from traditional retail premises. Young people have told us that these sites offer less robust age verification practices and provide a quick and easy way to get hold of alcohol, especially for younger teenagers, who would likely have greater difficulty in buying alcohol in person from in-store at a supermarket or off-licence.”

Scott Lloyd, Licensing Sergeant with South Wales Police, who led the test purchase operation, said:

“South Wales Police are disappointed with the failure rate and will work with the supermarkets to ensure under 18s do not have access to alcohol in this way.”

Alcohol Concern is calling for supermarkets, and other off-trade retailers that provide an alcohol home delivery service, to review their existing age checking procedures to determine whether they are fit for the purpose, and ensure in particular that delivery staff are given robust training in procedures relating to requesting and identifying proof of age. The charity also recommends more widespread test purchasing by police and trading standards to assess the true extent of the problem.

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The Australian Rechabite Foundation (ARF)

THE Australian Rechabite Foundation was established in 2009 to perpetuate the name and legacy of the Independent Order of Rechabites and provide grants of \$50,000 each year. Donations for these grants can only be made by members of the Independent Order of Rechabites.

In 2014/15, the ARF is supporting:

1. Scholarships to support postgraduate students in PhD research on a topic which will contribute to reducing the

negative health and social impacts of alcohol consumption in Australia.

2. A small-grant programme for community action projects which hold promise of reducing drinking and its harm in the community.

Your tax deductible donation mailed to the **Australian Rechabite Foundation** at **P.O. Box 4001, Eight Miles Plains, Qld 4113** - would be greatly appreciated. ■

Scots ban on multi-buy promotions claimed to be working

AREPORT from NHS Scotland claims that a 2.6% decrease in the amount of alcohol sold per adult in Scotland is attributable to the introduction of the Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Act in October 2011.

Researchers at NHS Health Scotland and the University of Glasgow found that the Act, which includes a ban on multi-buy promotions, was associated with a 4% drop in the amount of wine sold in Scotland’s supermarkets and off-licences, equivalent to almost 4.5 million bottles. The Act was associated with an 8.5% decline in the amount of pre-mixed alcohol drinks (including alcopops) sold in Scotland, although these account for only 1% of the total alcohol market.

Mark Robertson, Public Health Information Manager at NHS Health Scotland and study lead said:

“These findings show that the Alcohol Act has had the intended impact on reducing alcohol consumption in Scotland by placing restrictions on how alcohol is displayed and promoted. We know that some retailers responded to the multi-buy discount ban by selling individual bottles of wine for £3.33 instead of offering 3 bottles for £10.

“However, the incentive for people to buy more alcohol than they may otherwise have bought was removed and wine sales decreased.

“Although these effects are welcome, alcohol consumption in Scotland remains high and a large proportion of alcohol is still sold at relatively low prices. There is good evidence to show that the positive effects of the Alcohol Act would be enhanced by minimum unit pricing, which would prevent the sale of cheap, high strength alcohol.”

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