

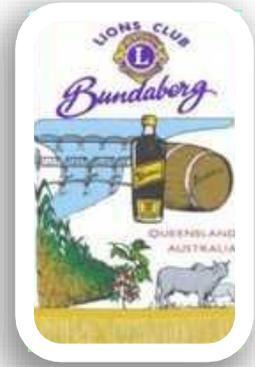
History



**Bundaberg Lions Club Chartered
14th October 1964**



Peace Pole dedication.
*May
Peace
Prevail
on
Earth*



Bar-Bee- Q
We worked with Bunnings to donate a BBQ to the Special School.



Lions Bears donated to Police.



Keeping the history of Bundaberg alive. A new plaque was put on the Tom Quinn Centre.



School Library Book Project - Book Week.



Cakes, Sweep tickets, Lion Mints, and EMIB all at once.

LIONS CLUB OF BUNDABERG

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Peace Pole

Fashion Fantasia



BUNDABERG LIONS CLUB OFFICERS & MEMBERS 2025

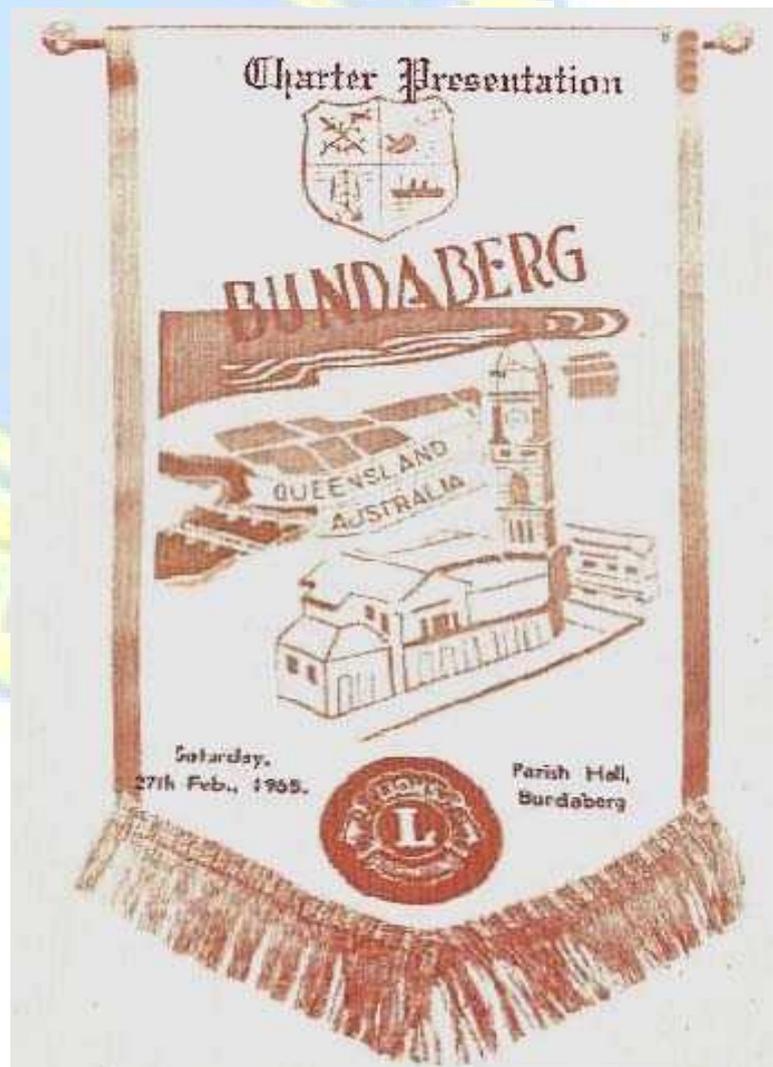
		Years of Service
President	Wayne Vanderwolf	32
Immediate Past President	Gail McKewen	32
Secretary	Alan Williams	41
Treasurer	Jeff McColl	26
First Vice President	John Page	17
Second Vice President	David Dempster	32
Lion Tamer	George Pohlmann	23
Tail Twister	George Martin	23
Membership Chairman	Wayne Evans	34
Bulletin Editor	Rino Gastaldon	41
Club Directors	Grant MacDonald	44
	Karen Bartley	28
P.R.O. & Historian	David Dempster	
Safety Officer & Membership	Wayne Evans	
LCIF Chairperson	Sue Lord	13
Life Member	James Ferguson	56
Members	Shendal Dervish	14
	Terry Cunningham	30
	Gordon Taylor	23
	Neil Dwyer	26
Cabinet Members	Rino Gastaldon	
	Alan Williams	
	Total member years	535
	Average member years	29.7

PRESIDENTS ROLL

LIONS CLUB OF BUNDABERG

1964-1966 Guy Day-Lewis
1966-1967 John Crossley
1967-1968 Frank McNamara
1968-1969 Fred McCracken
1969-1970 Buddy Anderson
1970-1971 Ron Glass
1971-1972 Jim Anderson
1972-1973 Graham Plath
1973-1974 Ray Townson
1974-1975 Jack McAtee
1975-1976 Eric Ryan
1976-1977 Bruno Palu
1977-1978 Duncan Muller
1978-1979 Jim Ferguson
1979-1980 Alan "Ned" Short
1980-1981 Fred May
1981-1982 Tom Riley
1982-1983 Ian Murdoch /
Duncan Muller
1983-1984 Buddy Andersen
1984-1985 Steve Glass
1985-1986 Geoff Day-Lewis
1986-1987 Noel Searle
1987-1988 George Wood
1988-1989 Bill Baxter
1989-1990 Fred May
1990-1991 Neil Grant
1991-1992 Bert Hutchins
1992-1993 Harvey Gahan
1993-1994 Eric Ryan
1994-1995 Ken Thompson
1995-1996 Craig Poole
1996-1997 Kerry Lines
1997-1998 Kerry Lines
1998-1999 David Dempster
1999-2000 Alan Williams
2000-2001 George Pohlmann
2001-2002 Mike Verdel
2002-2003 Alan Sanderson
2003-2004 Alan Sanderson
2004-2005 Denis Buckingham
2005-2006 Terry Cunningham
2006-2007 Tony Kimber
2007-2008 Grant MacDonald
2008-2009 Grant MacDonald
2009-2010 Mike Verdel
2010-2011 Mike Verdel
2011-2012 Wayne Evans
2012-2013 Rino Gastaldon
2013-2014 Rino Gastaldon

2014-2015 Jeff McColl
2015-2016 Jeff McColl
2016-2017 Sue Lord
2017-2018 Sue Lord
2018-2019 Alan Williams
2019-2020 Alan Williams
2020-2021 Wayne Vanderwolf
2021-2022 Grant MacDonald
2022-2023 Gail McKewen
2023-2024 Gail McKewen
2024-2025 Wayne Vanderwolf



CHARTER MEMBERS

1964

Alastair Andersen	James Anderson
Colin Bourke	John Caspar
Ian Clark	Alfred Cook
John Crossley	Arthur Darnell
Guy Day-Lewis	Donald Duncan
Ronald Glass	Michael Gruchy
Keith Johnson	Alfred Killer
John Male	William Marles
Frederick McCracken	Francis McNamara
Ronald Newman	Graham Plath
Eric Ryan	Edgar Sankowsky
Noel Searle	Edward Stopford
George Walters	



Welcome from the Bundaberg Lions Club Members.

A history of the Bundaberg Lions Club follows but in truth there is a lot lot more. Bundaberg Lions Club has moved with the times and has left some projects behind but started new ones in their place. There are also many projects that have remained a constant. The Club has cooked thousands of sausage sizzles for fundraising, other events, and emergencies. Bundaberg Lions have a long list of community groups they assist with equipment, labour and donations. Donations to common causes like medical research and disaster readiness has never stopped. Analysis of our fundraising, donations and projects shows that Bundaberg Lions Club generally disburses 10 to 15 thousand dollars per year with 80% directed locally. The rest goes to Lions Australia Foundations for common causes like medical research and disaster readiness. Club volunteer service hours has increased to over 3000 hours per year. This would equate to \$80000 in wages. Lions Club administration is now modern, digitized and online. This now gives Lions more accurate records and keeps Lions up to date with modern practices.

HISTORY OF THE BUNDABERG LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club of Bundaberg was formed on 14th October 1964, having been sponsored by the Lions Club of Maryborough. There were 25 members in the newly chartered club. The Charter President was Guy Day-Lewis, the Secretary was John Crossley, and the Treasurer was Bob Cook. Those honoured with the presentation of Life Membership since charter include Frank McNamara (dec), Ron Glass (dec), Harvey Gahan (dec) George Wood (dec) Graham Plath (dec) Noel Searle O.A.M (dec), Jim Anderson (dec) and Jim Ferguson.

Bundaberg Lions Club provided many capable District Officers, one being the late Lion Frank McNamara, who was Governor of the then Lions District 201K in 1972/73. This district, known as the 'Big K', gave him 72 clubs under his jurisdiction. In 1971/72, the Lions Club of Bundaberg received the District Governor's award for Champion Club of District 201K. Bundaberg Lions Club hosted two very successful District Conventions. At the 1971 Convention, 900 Lions, Lions Ladies and guests attended the Governor's Banquet in the Bundaberg Civic Centre.

The Bundaberg Lions Club was active in promoting Lions within our area, sponsoring the Charter of the Lions Clubs of Bundaberg Hinkler, Childers, Miriam Vale, Gin Gin, and Bargara, as well as the Bundaberg Leos Club.

Bundaberg Lions Ladies Auxiliary supported the Lions Club with many projects. The largest being Fashion Fantasia. Clothing designers and seamstresses would enter their unique work in one of eight sections. The event had a successful 28-year run. (1974 – 2001). The fashion parade at Bundaberg Civic Centre, attracted more than 800 spectators and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity.

In 1969 the Pioneer Hospital was built in Bourbong Street, Millbank. Bundaberg Lions Club landscaped the grounds. This facility was known as Pioneer Memorial Home for Aged People.

Bundaberg Lions Club was responsible for converting the unsightly wasteland under the traffic bridge at North Bundaberg into a picturesque Lions Park. Work started in 1970. First, a huge hole had to be filled and the land leveled and cleared of lots of rubbish and flood debris. Next, Club members constructed two BBQ pits, covered tables and seats and playground equipment for children.

Also developed was a Lions Park in Takalvan Street, locally called "Boot Park". This park has had a number of transformations from the Old Boot Play House to a Cane Train.

Lions Miss Personality Quest was supported by Bundaberg Lions for many years. Many ladies gave up their time to support Lions with this fund raising. The fundraising mostly being for Medical Research.

The Bundaberg Lions Club has worked on many projects over the years. The largest being the construction of the Activity Therapy Centre in Killer Street (now the Salvation Army Tom Quinn Community Centre). The Asthma Foundation was planning a hydrotherapy pool at the same time, so it was decided the two groups should work together. The Activity Therapy Centre for Multiple Sclerosis and Asthma Treatment and Research became a club project in 1976. While society had been slow to provide facilities and caring environment for the handicapped, service clubs had been leaders the field. The project involved Hinkler Lions, and Bundaberg Apex and Rotary Clubs in addition to the Bundaberg Lions. Deputy Premier Dr. Edwards commended Bundaberg and District for financing the project, primarily through the Lions Miss Personality Quest. He said the project probably would make Lions Clubs the biggest supporters of medical

research in Queensland. The project was recognised as the largest under taken by service clubs in Australia at the that time.

Bundaberg Lions helped with the creation of the new Apple Tree Creek park in 1985 and placed the Rock monument with a plaque. The park has recently been updated by the Council. The Rock is still there.

Light towers at the old Bundaberg Showgrounds were constructed by Bundaberg Lions members, as was the Lions Club building. The first use of the Lions purpose built building at the Show Grounds was in 1987. Bundaberg Lions went on for three decades serving hot chips, hot beef gravy rolls and cold drinks at the Bundaberg Show.

In 1989 a former Bundaberg Lions Youth Exchange Student repaid Bundaberg for its kindness with a donation of more than \$8000 to Bundaberg Botanical Gardens. Mr Yoshi Funamura returned to Bundaberg to express his gratitude at Bundaberg support during his Lions Exchange Student visit in 1970. This was the beginning of the Bundaberg Japanese Gardens which included The Yoshie Garden Courtyard. A plaque is still mounted on the Torii which was built by Bundaberg Lions Club.

A Bundaberg Lions Club School Bursary was set up in 1993 and continues to this day. The Bursary rotates through the Bundaberg High Schools. Other Bursaries in recent times have also been set up by a past Lion Graham Plath members family and a separate Bundaberg Lions Charity has been started for similar purposes. Bundaberg Lions Club does not have to contribute to these as they are separately funded.

Since 1997 Bundaberg Lions Melbourne Cup Sweep has been a major fund raiser for Bundaberg Lions Club. Many tickets are bought with the knowledge that the proceeds are supporting good causes through the Lions Club. The project is still well supported.

A major project was the bricking over of the old wharfies hut in Targo Street. Bundaberg Lions and helpers completed this job in one weekend. The building became the inaugural headquarters of Meals on Wheels, known as "Sunshine House". In May 1997 it was decided that the existing kitchen could not cope with the number of meals required, and the increased volume of traffic on the Quay Street intersection posed a significant risk to volunteer drivers. With Council assistance, a site in Eastgate Street, East Bundaberg was made available.

In May 1998, arguably the best-designed and equipped M.O.W. kitchen in Queensland was opened. Bundaberg Lions Club built a 6m x 3m shed at the rear of the new premises and worked in partnership with Bundaberg Rotary to establish gardens and landscaping in the area. Today, M.O.W. Bundaberg operates 5 days a week, supplying an increasing number meals each day plus frozen meals for clients who require meals over weekends. They cater to the requirements of the other centers & the Bundaberg Watchhouse. The frozen meals have proven popular and are now available to members of the public, with sales almost equal in number to the delivered hot meals. The present-day operation is well managed by a dedicated committee with experienced volunteers. Many of the volunteers are active members of Lions Clubs. Bundaberg Lions members act as voluntary drivers, and a number of our members are on the MOW board.

Bundaberg Lions Club conducted very successful eye clinics and provided a Seeing Eye Dog for a Bundaberg resident. Bundaberg Lions Club is currently looking to join the Children's Vision Screening Program using the Spot Vision Screener. The Spot Vision Screener is a state of the art piece of equipment that takes a photo of the child's eyes. It screens for Myopia, Hyperopia, Astigmatism, Anisometropia, Strabismus and Anisocoria. A technical report is produced, that can be downloaded from the device.

Construction of awnings for the pensioner units in Barolin Street and provision of medical equipment to the hospitals were rewarding Club projects. Club members have also repaired donated toys and distributed them to needy families at Christmas.

Fundraising projects have included raffles of Children's Cubby Houses, Billy Carts and a Rocking Horse. Also the collection of waste paper for recycling, and chook raffles at local hotels.

In 2002 Bundaberg Lions brought and constructed a pergola for the project at Meilene Home for the Aged.

2003 saw the wind up of the Bundaberg Lions Lady Auxiliary.

In 1998, the Bundaberg Rats of Tobruk (R.O.T.) committee requested the Bundaberg City Council to allocate land for a Memorial commemorating the historic Siege of Tobruk (10th April - 7th December, 1941). The Memorial was to replicate the one built by the 9th Division Engineers during the siege. The chosen site was part of a park created by the Lions Club of Bundaberg 20 years earlier in Takalvan Street.

A collaborative project between the Council, R.O.T., and the Lions Club began. The R.O.T. committee raised around \$10,000 for the project, and a local company's landscape plan transformed the site into a beautiful park with the Monument as the centerpiece. Lions helped with project management and labour. Bundaberg Lions had a timed watering system installed for the gardens. Following the Memorial's completion, the Lions Club helped beautify the nearby Boot Park, now Lions Remembrance Park, which contains plaques commemorating various wartime campaigns. Bundaberg Lions added a Rose Garden in 2012 to the Rats of Tobruk area with the planting of Lion Roses.

In 2006 Bundaberg Lions purchased the equipment for Heartstart approximately \$1500. A popular walking and excise track program was being supervised by a local doctor.

In 2009 we decided that a BBQ Kitchen Emergency Trailer would be a worthwhile piece of equipment to have. This was very apparent after unloading three or four vehicles full of heavy equipment like BBQ's. Our thoughts were it could be used for emergencies to feed people and also be very useful for Community Events. The trailer was under construction during the first Bundaberg flood but seen service during the second flood. Lions were called in urgently to help with long lines of people at the Disaster Recovery Centres. Everybody enjoys a cold drink and a sausage sizzle cooked by Lions.

The Lions Club of Bundaberg has a strong commitment to Youth Exchange and the cultural benefits that flow from the program. Bundaberg Lions supported Youth Exchange by hosting 54 Exchange Youth 1970 to 2010.

Bundaberg Lions Club ran the bar at the Bundaberg Air Show in 2010. Sausage sizzles and catering events are still good fundraisers for the Club. Bundaberg Lions cater at Bunnings sausage Sizzles, Field Days and Corporate events and others.

2013 saw the centenary of Bundaberg becoming a city. The Council asked Bundaberg Lions Club to host a breakfast on the Burnett Bridge which was built in 1900.

In 2015 Bundaberg Lions, Bundaberg Hinkler Lions and Bundaberg North Lions combined and built a nine bay shed at the Bundaberg Recreational Precinct. The land was owned by the State Government and managed by Bundaberg Regional Council. We have a yearly permit to occupy with Lions paying 3 times the cost as it is deemed by Council we are separate Clubs legally. The shed cost the Clubs \$70000 and unfortunately because of the short time to be out of the old Show Grounds no grants could be applied for. Luckily the Clubs did know this was going to happen some time in the future and all had started saving for that time. The Council helped us with temporary accommodation at the old Show Grounds, some drainage and concrete paths at the new shed and gave us a grant for tree removal at the site.

On Thursday 21 September 2017, the International Day of Peace, members of the Bundaberg Lions Club joined councilors and staff of the Bundaberg Regional Council to unveil a peace pole in Buss Park. The peace pole has an octagonal cross-section with the message "May peace prevail on Earth" displayed in eight languages, significant to people of the Bundaberg district. The Peace Pole is Bundaberg's addition to the

tens of thousands of similar monuments found in over 180 countries. The unveiling coincided with a day designated by the United Nations General Assembly that is devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. This sentiment aligns closely with the stated purposes of Lions Clubs International. 2017 also marked one hundred years since the international Lions organisation was formed.

Bundaberg and Bundaberg North Lions Clubs joined to sponsor a Lions Hearing Dog. The cost of a Lions Hearing dog when fully trained is \$37000. Lions Hearing Dogs is a registered charity and besides the Lions Clubs contributing they have corporate sponsors. The Lions members helped for 12 weeks with in home training.

Lions Christmas Cake Program had its beginnings back prior to 1965. The project proved successful, and sales have been astronomical since the inception. Bundaberg Lions in recent times have increased sales to where this is now a major fund raiser for the club.

The Lion Mint program was established at the 1976 Melbourne Multiple District Convention. Bundaberg Lions has around 25 supporting businesses with Lion mints on their front counter.

The Lions Club of Bundaberg has been part of the Youth of the Year Quest for many years. From the earliest days of the Club, a Youth of the Year representative has been selected to move through to higher levels of judging including the State finals. This Club project fell into recess for a few years in the 1980's and early 1990's. It was re-activated in 1996 and remains a strong Club project with enthusiastic support from Bundaberg State High School. In the past few years Bargara Lions Club has been unable to get entrants for the Youth of the Year. Bundaberg Lions invited Bargara Lions to share the entrants from Bundaberg State High School. This year Cadence Taylor representing Bargara Lions Club went on to become the Australian winner.

Our Lions District partners with Youth Insearch to have 4 Insearch Camps. These camps are extra camps that Insearch would not normally do. Lions look after the meals and venue costs at our four camps. Youth Insearch provide the counseling, Nurse, and other necessary staff. These four camps cost Lions in excess of \$24000. The Bundaberg Lions club help with volunteers and some funding.

Eye glass recycling, Container for Change and Stamp collecting are smaller projects still being completed by Bundaberg Lions.

For 35 Years with the support of Lions clubs throughout Australia, Lions Crimewatch has distributed over 53,000 Lions Teddy Bears. With Lions clubs ongoing support of "Lions Operation Teddy Bear", Lions continue to supply bears to Police and others that deal with distressed children. Bundaberg Lions purchases Lions Teddy Bears which are distributed to Bundaberg Police Crime Prevention Unit.

Bundaberg Lions Club decided to launch the life saving Emergency Medical Information Book [EMIB] into the Bundaberg community. This has been a long standing project of Lions and Rotary Clubs Australia wide and has saved lives. The EMIB also has a pocket version for your wallet. The EMIB needs to be filled in with your medical information and needs to be placed for easy access. It has magnets ready for the fridge door. Bundaberg Lions aim to expand this project to reach as many in the community as possible.

Lions Clubs support many literacy and education programs with projects such as The Bundaberg Lions Club School Library Book Donation. Bundaberg Lions Club supports the good work of local authors who have written many inspiring books. Bert, The Boy Who Had A Dream by local author Elaine Lyons is one of the books we presented. Elaine partnered with Bundaberg Lions to enable us to put this book into many Bundaberg school libraries. This allowed 4,000 students to have an inspiring read. The other book is Hatch Saves The Reef by local author Judith Stutchbury. Hatch Saves The Reef helps give a basic understanding of problems we are facing with the Great Barrier Reef. Proceeds from this book support student Reef

Guardian projects.

Bundaberg Lions Club partners with many other community groups for various projects and events. These include School fetes, Feeding the Homeless, Sausage Sizzles, Drink Stop for the Bundaberg to Coast Family Bike Ride and many more.

Medical research, Disaster relief and other Australian Lions Foundations have been supported by Bundaberg Lions Club since formed.



Teacher Mel being thanked at a School Parade for her help with Youth of the Year Program.

Lions Youth Exchange pictures.



Being a Waiter is hard work.



Marshaling a parade.



The old show shed.



Donation of white goods after the floods. Bundaberg Lions supplied, loaded and delivered.

Sugarland Christmas Cake



Lions Youth of the Year is one of Lions Clubs most successful programs. This year the Australian winner was Bundaberg student Cadence Taylor.

Bundaberg Lions Club Charter

The
International Association
 OF
Lions Clubs
CHARTER

To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come:
GREETING

Rnow Ye that The International Association of Lions Clubs has granted, and by these presents does grant to the Members, whose names are hereunto affixed, and to all regularly elected members and their successors, this Charter, fully constituting them a Local Club, under the name and title of

THE LIONS CLUB OF
Bundaberg

Located at Bundaberg Queensland Australia with all the rights and privileges given to members of The International Association of Lions Clubs, according to the rules and regulations of the Constitution and By-Laws of The International Association now in force, or hereafter enacted.

This Charter shall be in full force and effect from the day of the date hereof, and for such time as the Members of the Local Club shall conform to the laws and rules of The International Association. Otherwise this Charter shall be revoked.

In Witness Whereof The International Association of Lions Clubs has authorized its President and Secretary to affix their signatures, and caused the seal of the Association to be hereunto affixed this 14th day of October in the year of our Lord 1964



John H. Clift Secretary
Clarence M. Ballinger President

Charter Members

DANLEWIS, Roy Warwick
 GROSSLEY, John Colin
 CLARK, Sam Henry
 McNAMARA, Francis John
 DUNNAN, Ronald Stewart
 GRICHY, Michael Victor
 MILLER, Alfred Richard
 BOUWEE, Colin William
 CASPAR, John Albert
 SANDHWAY, Edgar Oswald
 ANDERSON, Vincent Keith
 COOK, Alfred William John
 MALE, John Edward

MARLEY, William Joseph Maxwell
 RYAN, Eric
 McDONALD, Frederick John
 NEWMAN, Ronald James
 GLASS, Ronald Howard
 PLATH, Graham James
 DARNELL, Arthur James
 WALTERS, George
 STOPFORD, Bernard Montagu
 JOHNSON, Keith John
 SEARLE, William Noel
 ANDERSON, James Allan

CHARTER BUNDABERG LIONS CLUB

One Tuesday afternoon early in October 1964, a number of Bundaberg businessmen met in the Civic Centre meeting Room where the Mayor, Ald, C. J. Nielson, introduced three visitors, Jim McLardie, Secretary of Australian Lions, Jim Casey, President of Maryborough Lions Club, and Kev Clifford, member of Maryborough Lions Club.

Jim McLardie announced that he was in Bundaberg to assist Maryborough in forming a Lions Club in Bundaberg. After addressing the gathering it was generally agreed that a club should be formed. Two former Lions now resident in Bundaberg, Col Bourke (headmaster, West State School) and John Male (manager, Woolworths) along with John Crossley became the local committee to identify potential members for a new club.

The next meeting was held at the Metropolitan Hotel on 14th October 1964, attended by 15 potential members. Some of the motions passed at that meeting included

The Lions Club of Bundaberg be formed.

The joining fee be 4/10/- (\$9) minimum;

Annual dues be 8/-/- (\$16) minimum;

Dinner meetings be held on first and third Thursdays of each month;

Elected officers: President Guy Day-Lewis

Secretary John Crossley

Treasurer Bob Cook

15 Lions were inducted at that meeting and the Bundaberg Lions Club came into existence and this day would be recognised as the Official Charter date.

Over the next four months leading up to Charter Celebration Night, there were many meetings to organise the new Club. All were attended by Jim Casey and Kev Clifford along with several other Maryborough Lions. On several memorable occasions every single member of the Maryborough Lions Club was present.

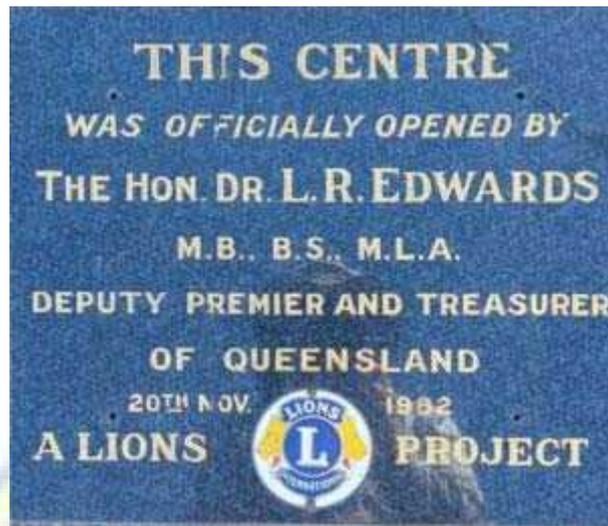
By 27th February 1965 another 10 Lions had been inducted into the Bundaberg Lions Club, making a membership of 25 on Charter Celebration Night.

The Charter Celebration of the Club was held in the Anglican Parish Hall and was attended by a total of 255 people, comprising 130 Lions, 83 Lions Ladies and 16 Club guests and 26 other citizens. The Lions in attendance travelled from Wide Bay area, Brisbane and surrounds, Sunshine Coast, Darling Downs, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay and Home Hill.

The young Lions Club found it difficult to raise funds and for several months the Lions Club of Bundaberg worked on an overdraft, thanks to a very understanding bank manager (who was also the Club Treasurer).

Researched by Lion David Dempster

ACTIVITY THERAPY CENTRE



This is the story of the building of the Activity Therapy Centre, a Project of the Lions Club of Bundaberg.

It all started with Lion Alf Killer, a close friend of mine whose wife developed Multiple Sclerosis. At that time, as a serious asthmatic, I was involved in the ARAB's (Asthma Research Assn. of Bundaberg) to find out why so many people were developing Asthma in the District and to try to find funds to build a heated pool for kids to exercise. Alf, at the same time, formed the Bundaberg Branch of the MS society to raise funds to find a cure for MS and to build a centre in Bundaberg as he needed to take his wife to the MS Centre in Brisbane regularly for physio in a heated pool at MS headquarters. He obtained a lease of a parcel of land in what is now known as Killer Street and the committee comprised of Alf as Chairman, Daughter Ann Hicks as Secretary with only 3 others on the committee. One was Alma Ing whose sister had MS also. At that stage, all donations and funds raised were being sent to MS Headquarters in Brisbane. Unfortunately, just as things were starting to evolve, Alf suddenly passed away and his dream of a therapy place in Bundaberg was put on hold. As one of his close friends, I suggested to the club that we take over and finish what Alf started and the Lions Club Directors at the time agreed unanimously. The club had had previous experience when it developed the Meals on Wheels kitchen in Quay Street. I then chaired the local MS committee and met with the Directors of MS in Brisbane outlining what the Lions had decided to do and they agreed for the Bundaberg Branch to cease sending the money to Brisbane and accumulate it for the project in Bundaberg. I then went to the Directors of Asthma in Brisbane (one of which was a Lion and a friend of mine) and they agreed to supply funding where they could.

The result of all that was the building would have 2 leases, half for MS and half for Asthma with a general office in the middle. They agreed to help with the funding if we were in trouble. After listening to all the requirements of both parties it was decided that MS side would be for all the physio equipment and the Asthma side would have the heated pool which the MS sufferers could also use, and with showers and toilets in each. There was not a heated pool in Bundaberg at that time. Lion Ron Glass, a licensed builder, then organised the plan drawing which was agreed to by all and gave an estimate of the material costing. Ron continued from then on to supervise all the work. This is when the Wide Bay Television station came to our help and televised photos of the land and what the Lions were trying to do as well as appealing for donations from businesses and the general public. Alma Ing ran many functions at her Hotel and private home. (The Lions dwarf hat act was used at lot of these.) Wide Bay Television continued to regularly support the project the whole way. As the lot was full of trees which needed to be removed, I approached Alex Walker and he donated a bulldozer and leveled it as much as he could. As I was at Massey Ferguson at the time with 2 other lions who were also managers there, we had a meeting with employees who willingly gave their time after work to pull up all the roots and load them into a truck also provided by Massey Ferguson.

A lion from the Bargara Club then gave us his time with his machine to smooth the surface ready for laying the foundation. I calculated at that stage that we had enough funds to start. I approached the Headmaster of TAFE to see if he would allow the apprentice bricklayers, under supervision, to lay the foundation blocks. He agreed and the work was very successful and the lads felt proud to have done something worthwhile for the community. A backhoe operator donated his time to dig the channels and Smiths concrete had filled them up ready. Members of the lions then completed the form work, under Lion Ron Glass's supervision, and the floor was poured apart from a big hole in the Asthma side where we were to have the heated pool. Now came the big part. The actual structure. Members of the committee had personally contacted all the contractor gangs, service clubs and volunteers to let them know that the building was about to start. The club had been to meetings of Rotary and other Lions Clubs asking for help on the day, and the Bundaberg News Mail and Wide Bay Television were also a big support. We had organised the trestles, planks and cement mixers together with cement, sand and water in easy to use positions with wheelbarrows at the ready. A fork lift had been provided by Massey Ferguson to spread the blocks evenly around the perimeter. The brickie gangs were allocated a specific area when they arrived and the lions, other service club members and public volunteers, mixed the mud, manned the wheelbarrows, made sure the blocks were on the planks all the time, and kept the mud up to the brickies as they needed it.

The walls went up like magic as each gang was trying to show how good they were. Smoko was provided and Ron Manning's pies were provided for lunch. At 4pm, a ute arrived with stubbies provided by Alma Ing. The pies and stubbies were provided at no cost. My memory is not clear, but I think all the walls were up in 2 weekends. The roof trusses and battens were completed in one weekend assisted by the moveable platforms also provided by Massey Ferguson. Morning tea, lunch and stubbies at the end were again provided as they were at every working bee. Next came the ceiling and soffits, made easier again with the help of the moving platform because the MS part of the building had 12 foot ceilings. The roof went up in a morning as there were so many plumbers volunteering on that day. The painters came another weekend to do the walls and ceilings, and the glaziers put in the windows. MF employees were there every Friday after work getting things ready for each weekend. Lion Fred May who was a monumental mason insisted that he and his staff do all the tiling in the swimming pool and that was a big task but they did a wonderful job. Then came the hard part, the internal finishing of moldings, light fittings etc. It took many weekends of ringing different tradespeople to come and help. I tried many pool heating places for a satisfactory roof type and eventually found one from the Gold Coast.

It was a huge project and we have so many people to thank for its success. It was completed within the funds that we had and debt free. I shall always remember the wonderful co-operation that we had from all the Bundaberg tradesmen in particular who gave their time and expertise to make it all happen. The project would not have been so successful without all the voluntary work which amounted to many thousands of hours. The final wonderful thing that happened was that the lions QLD Miss Personality Quest dinner and final judging was televised from the centre after it had been completed. I was only sorry I was unable to attend the official opening.

John Crossley OAM



ABOVE: (from the newspaper) The Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Dr. Edwards, addresses guests before officially opening the Bundaberg Activity Therapy Centre and hydro-therapy pool on Saturday. At left: Dr. Edwards unveils a commemorative plaque.

Six years community effort in fundraising and months of volunteer work building the Bundaberg Activity Therapy Centre and asthma hydro-therapy pool were rewarded on Saturday with the official opening of the facilities by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Dr. Edwards.

The centre for multiple sclerosis patients was the idea of the late Alf Killer, who was treasurer of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Queensland and a member of the Bundaberg Lions Club. The centre for multiple sclerosis patients was the idea of the late Alf Killer, who was treasurer of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Queensland and a member of the Bundaberg Lions Club.

The centre became a club project in 1976. The Asthma Foundation was planning a hydrotherapy pool at the same time, so it was decided the two groups should work together. Dr. Edwards said that while society generally had been slow to provide facilities and caring environment for the handicapped service clubs had been leaders the field.

He said the project had involved Hinkler Lions, and Bundaberg Apex and Rotary Clubs in addition to the Bundaberg Lions.

The State Government had been pleased to assist by making available the two-hectare site for the Centre, which appropriately has its frontage on Killer Street, Dr. Edwards said. Bundaberg City Council recognised Alf Killer's contribution by naming the street after him when it was extended to provide access to the centre.

Dr. Edwards commended Bundaberg and district for financing the project, primarily through the Lions Miss Personality Quest. He said the project probably would make Lions clubs the biggest supporters of medical research in Queensland. The cost of the centre was contained because machinery had been loaned and work undertaken voluntarily. In all, about 13000 manhours went into the completion of the centre. A fete and public inspection co-incided with Saturday's opening.

Newspaper 29th August 1980

Volunteers required for therapy centre.

Volunteer bricklayers and workmen will be needed at the site of the new Bundaberg Therapy Centre in Killer Street at the weekend. Foundations have been laid, and the concrete floor and indoor pool poured. Work at the weekend will make a start on the walls of the building.

Labourers

The working bee will start at 7am on both tomorrow and Sunday, to work throughout the day as long as light and the number of people allow. The secretary-treasurer of the Bundaberg auxiliary of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Queensland, Mrs. A. Hicks, said yesterday that as many people as possible were needed. Anyone who was not a bricklayer would work as a labourer, she said. People were free to come and go as they pleased and stay only as long as they could, but Mrs. Hicks asked that she be contacted (telephone 712751) by people who were willing to help.

The workforce could then be better organised, she said, and people would have something to do so their time would not be wasted. Mrs. Hicks said the volunteer response to earlier parts of the project had been very good. Work was ahead of schedule. It was hoped the building would be finished by October and the centre in operation well before Christmas. Mrs. Hicks said working bees would be needed over coming weekends when plumbers and painters would be called on.

The centre, for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Asthma Foundation, would provide therapeutic facilities for people with any muscular disability able to benefit from physiotherapy. When completed, the centre would include a physiotherapy gym and heated pool for year-round therapy, and facilities for occupational therapy, and hydrotherapy, a reception area and covered drive. All building work would be undertaken by voluntary labour as no Government subsidy was available.

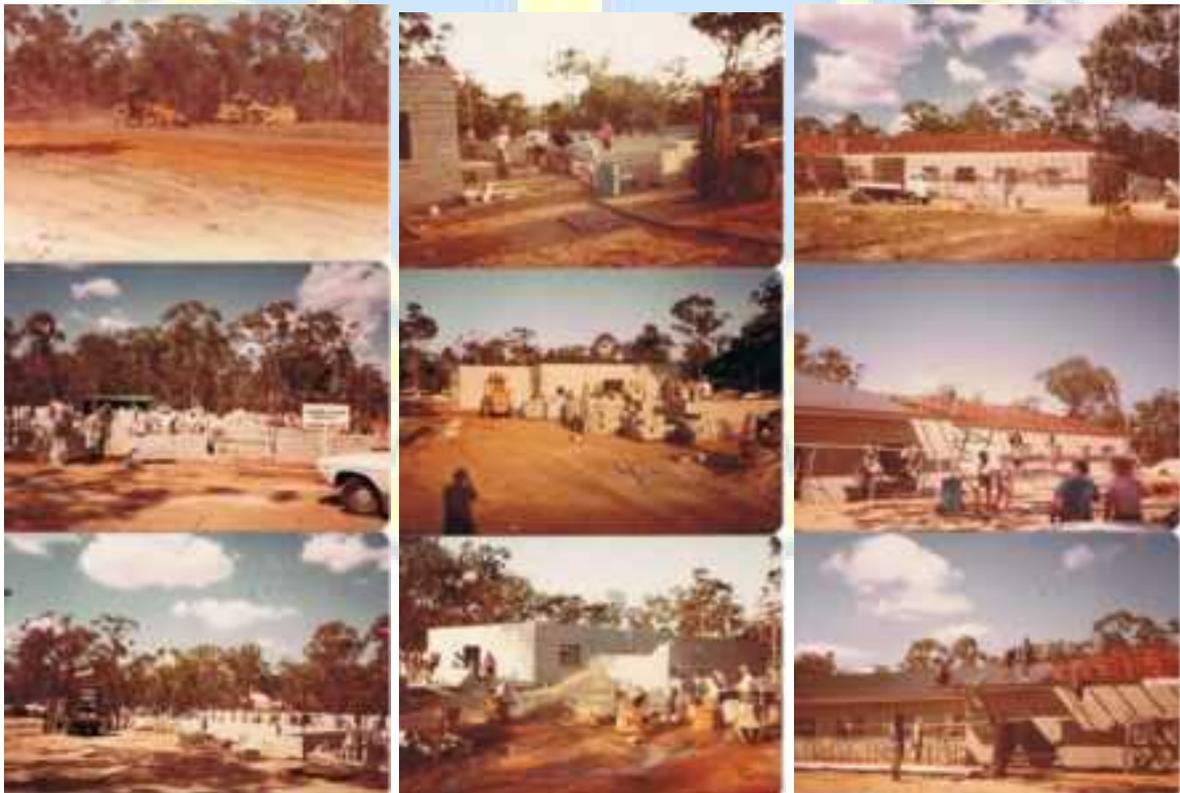
Newspaper 4th October 1980

VOLUNTEER ROOF JOB TODAY

More than 40 volunteer plumbers, carpenters and labourers today will put the roof on this \$300,000 Bundaberg Activity Therapy Centre, at Norville. More than 500 people have assisted in building the centre – bricklayers, service club members, pre-vocational students from the T.A.F.E. College, and members of the general public.



Early days of construction



NORTH BUNDABERG LIONS PARK

LIONS PARK – North End of Old Traffic Bridge

In 1969, after completing the landscaping of the grounds of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Lions members were looking for a similar community project. Bundaberg City Council had purchased badly degraded, flood damaged land on the north bank of the Burnett River from private landholders with a view to eventually beautify the river bank. Bundaberg Lions Club members, in particular Charter President Guy Day-Lewis, saw this as an excellent Club project.

With the blessing of the Council, work started in 1970. First, a huge hole had to be filled and the land levelled and cleared of lots of rubbish and flood debris. Next, Club members constructed two BBQ pits, covered tables and seats and playground equipment for children. Club members molded concrete posts and sunk them into the ground to define the perimeter of the park.

The Council has since planted many trees and added further amenities to make the park a very popular and attractive area. Our part in this section of the park was completed on 24/06/1972, with the construction of two brick piers and a Lions archway at the park entrance. The official hand-over to Mayor Cliff Nielsen and Councilor John Faircloth was carried out in front of the Lions archway by Lion Jim Anderson who was outgoing Club President. Completion of the park was one of his projects.

It was evident that a toilet block in the park was an urgently-needed facility; Council provided for this in the 1972-73 Budget. Lions however did the work as a further project with the help of some bikies who arrived one Saturday afternoon with lots of noise. Our apprehensions turned to grateful thanks when they pitched in and helped us with concrete laying and bricklaying.

Early worries about flooding proved groundless once we had grassed the area. Several floods have since come and gone with no damage. Council at that time had ideas of connecting Lions Park to nearby Harriet Island with a causeway or footbridge to provide for family outings, beautification, fishing etc. but this has never eventuated. Judging by the number of people who use Lions Park, it has proved to be a worthwhile project for our Club.

Researched and contributed by Charter Member Graham Plath

JAPANESE GARDEN

Exchange Student Repays City.

Printed in Newsmail (Bundaberg Local Newspaper) on 16th May 1989



Checking plans for a new water feature courtyard are the President of Bundaberg Lions Club, Mr Bill Baxter, the City Engineer, Mr Geof Bullpitt, and Lions Host parents, Mr Buddy Anderson, Mr Duncan Muller, Mr Ron Glass, and Mr Ron Cathcart. A former Youth Exchange Student has repaid Bundaberg for its kindness with a donation of more than \$8000 to Bundaberg Botanical Gardens. Mr Yoshi Funamura, now 42, returned to Bundaberg recently to express his gratitude at Bundaberg support during his Lions Exchange Student visit in 1970.

Mr Funamura now a successful businessman presented the cheque to Bundaberg Lions Club with the condition that the money be used to benefit all Bundaberg people. After consultation with Bundaberg City Council it was decided the money be used for a water feature courtyard at the Botanical Garden site. The location next to the new museum (Fairymead House) will be landscaped as a sunken area complete with a step waterfall. The President of Bundaberg Lions Club Mr Bill Baxter said they had been touched by the donation but said the action was typical of Mr Funamura. he had been a popular student and was much loved by his host family. During his student year, Mr Funamura attended Bundaberg State High School before returning to his home town Osaka. Plans for the site have already been drafted and construction will begin soon. The Bundaberg Lions Club constructed a Torii for the project and to honor Mr Funamura. Mr Funamura's donation would equate to about \$16000 in today's money.

The Bundaberg City Council have been working on the site and improving it over the years. It is now known as the Bundaberg Japanese Gardens which includes The Yoshie Garden Courtyard. A plaque is mounted on the Torii.

This is a very beautiful garden and it is always a pleasure to show our visitors. It is one of places we show all of our Exchange Students.

The people of Bundaberg have Mr Yosie Funamura to thank for the birth of this beautiful garden.

MEAL ON WHEELS

Contact details for Meal On Wheels

Phone Number 074151 5825

Email Address brendon@bmow.com.au

Website Address <http://www.bundabergmealsonwheels.com.au>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bundymow>

Operating Times/Days 8.00am to 4.00pm (Monday – Friday)

Follow this link to a local news article 2022

[Delivering more than just meals on wheels – Bundaberg Now](#)

Below is an ABC interview in 2016. sadly Noel has now passed.

[ABC Wide Bay](#) / By Trudie Leigo

Posted *Fri 21 Oct 2016 at 12:11pm Friday*

21 Oct 2016 at 12:11pm

*Bundaberg Meals on Wheels celebrates
serving the community for 50 years*



Noel Searle and Peter Donghi are proud of the organisation's achievements. (ABC Wide Bay: Trudie Leigo)

Current and former staff and volunteers of the Bundaberg and District Meals on Wheels will celebrate 50 years of operation this weekend.

The organisation, which grew out of the Lions Club in Bundaberg, was formed in 1966.

Noel Searle, who was one of the founding volunteers, said 11 meals had been delivered on the first day of operation.

“It was nothing like the health and safety we have today, it was very basic,” Mr Searle said.

“The meals were in one big container and the ladies served them to the recipients in their kitchens.”

Mr Searle said the organisation had changed a lot over the years, and now prepared 150–160 meals per day for their clients.

“I am very proud of the fact that we took it on as a project in 1966,” he said.

Challenges faced over the years

In the 50-year history of the organisation, Meals on Wheels has only missed one day of delivering meals to clients.

As volunteers gather this weekend, the devastating flood of 2013 will be one of their most significant memories to be discussed.



Floodwaters cover the central Queensland city of Bundaberg in the wake of ex-tropical cyclone Oswald. (Submitted: John McDermott)

Bundaberg and District Meals on Wheels president Peter Donghi said he had only just been appointed president when Bundaberg was inundated with record-breaking floodwaters in January of 2013.

“That was my baptism of fire,” he said.

The organisation lost everything inside its building and had to start again from scratch.

“The cost of rebuilding the facility was in excess of half a million dollars,” Mr Donghi said.

Remarkably the flood only put Meals on Wheels out of action for one day.

With the assistance of Kepnock State High School, the organisation was provided with part of a hall to operate from.

Hot boxes, fridges, freezers and meals were all air freighted from Brisbane.

“On that Tuesday, at the peak of the flood, the last plane into Bundaberg was carrying 800 frozen meals for us,” Mr Donghi said.

“That was the only day we missed delivering meals to our clients and we haven’t missed a day since.”

Volunteering the heart of the organisation

Mr Searle said the remarkable success of the organisation had been due to its volunteers.

“I can’t say enough about the volunteers that keep turning up every day to work,” he said.

“We have been particularly lucky with the volunteers.

“I doubt there would be an organisation anywhere that has as many members that have OAMs as this organisation.”

With only seven paid staff, Mr Donghi said it was a real volunteer-driven organisation.

“We produced 36,000 meals last year alone, and that was just the main meals,” he said.

“On top of that we’ve produced 19,000 desserts and 15,000 soups.”

Working towards the future

Staff and volunteers will have the opportunity to be served on Saturday, instead of serving others.

A special lunch is being held at the Doug Ambrose Hall to mark the golden anniversary.

Eighty guests will be reuniting to celebrate the organisation’s remarkable achievements.

But while the weekend will be set aside to celebrate the past, Mr Donghi said the organisation would continue to work towards the future.

“With governments now very committed to keeping the elderly in their own homes, our work is needed more now than ever before,” he said.

“A lot of our clients aren’t able to provide for themselves, so that’s where Meals on Wheels comes to the fore.”



Meals on Wheels is best known for delivering fresh, hot daily meals to clients, but they also provide frozen meals for clients to eat on weekends. *(ABC Wide Bay: Trudie Leigo)*

Four months ago Meals on Wheels in Bundaberg expanded its delivery service by establishing a sub-branch on the Discovery Coast.

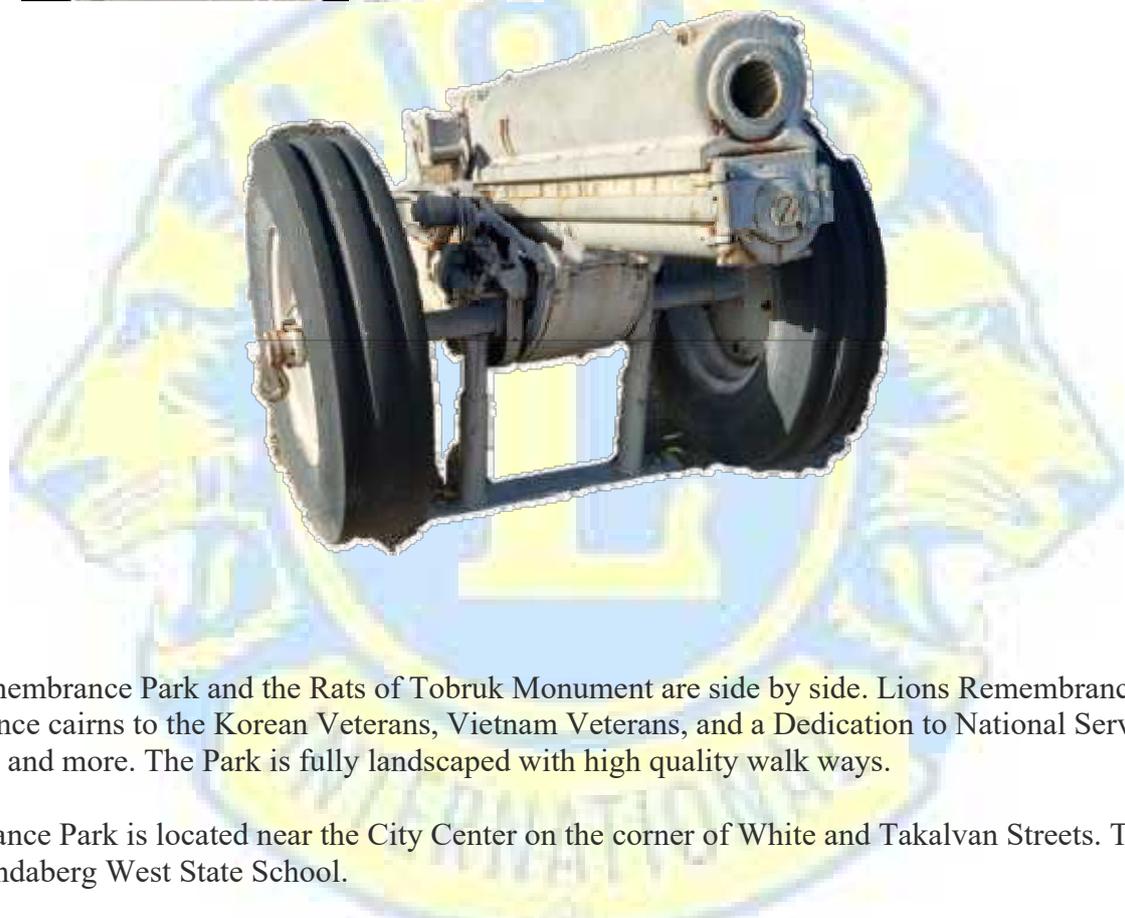
“We had a lady who could see a need for that area and we are now providing meals to a lot of elderly people in Miriam Vale, Baffle Creek, Rosedale, all of those isolated communities,” Mr Donghi said.

He said the organisation would continue to work towards expanding its delivery service throughout the region.

Posted 21 Oct 2016

LIONS REMEMBRANCE PARK





Lions Remembrance Park and the Rats of Tobruk Monument are side by side. Lions Remembrance Park has remembrance cairns to the Korean Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, and a Dedication to National Service Subscribers and more. The Park is fully landscaped with high quality walk ways.

Remembrance Park is located near the City Center on the corner of White and Takalvan Streets. The Park is beside Bundaberg West State School.





REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER 2022

Lion's Remembrance Park

Concluding the project of honouring Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with planting of trees was a ceremony involving association members, guests Cr Jack Dempsey, Mayor of Bundaberg Region and Alan Williams, secretary, Bundaberg Lions Club.

Following a welcome and short address by association president Jennifer Waldron, a wreath was laid at the Women of the Australian Defence Force Memorial by Olive Paterson. Shirley Watson recited the poem by John McCrae, In Flanders Fields and Dannielle Brearley recited the Ode.

The gathering then moved a short distance to begin the tree ceremony. After an official welcome and the playing of the Royal Anthem of Australia, President Jennifer Waldron addressed those assembled:



Our 'jubilee trees for war memorial parks' project will create an enduring, living legacy that will honor and commemorate the Queen's 70 years of service to Australia and the Commonwealth. Given The Queen's service during WWII and her role as Colonel in Chief of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps, it is fitting that the two parks for our project are here at Lions Remembrance Park, home of many WWII memorials and at War Nurses Memorial Park.

Before becoming Queen, she served with the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the women's branch of the British Army, during the Second World War – joining when she turned 18 and training as a mechanic. She was also the first female of the Royal family to be an active-duty member of the British Armed Forces.

The completed project will be a dream come true for our group of proud women veterans, ensuring our treasured war memorial parks are presented in a fitting manner to the community, and reflecting their high esteem for our war nurses and the men and women who have served Australia. 23 trees have been planted at the western end of War Nurses Memorial Park adding to the trees we planted at the memorial end of the park in 2014 during the Centenary of Anzac. Here at Lions Remembrance Park 10 trees have been planted, providing a parade of Quandong trees to complement the war memorials that reside here. Permanent commemorative signage has been installed at both parks.

Bundaberg District Women Veterans are honoured on behalf of all servicewomen and servicemen of the Bundaberg region to participate in the nation-wide tree planting program, and have pride in delivering a lasting commemorative legacy of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee for the community of Bundaberg. President Jennifer then invited Mayor Jack Dempsey, Bundaberg Regional Council, Alan Williams representing Bundaberg Lions Club and Leone Wilson OAM, Patron Bundaberg District Women Veterans to undertake the ceremonial planting of the final tree to mark the conclusion of the Jubilee Trees for War Memorial Parks project.



The National Anthem followed. The ceremony concluded with a thank-you from the president. This project is jointly funded through Bundaberg District Women Veterans and The Australian Government's Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program, and I thank the government for providing funding support. I also wish to acknowledge the wonderful support provided by Bundaberg Regional Council Parks staff Carla and Cody, their technical assistance, has been invaluable.

Thanks to Angella, Leone and Sharon who have greatly assisted me in getting the project completed; and a special thankyou to our women veterans and everyone who help both at July event and helping setup for this morning's event. Thankyou everyone for attending this historic event this morning and that concludes our Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting Ceremony.

Mayor Jack Dempsey took the opportunity to thank both Bundaberg District Women Veterans and Bundaberg Lions Club for the contributions made to the community of Bundaberg.

RATS OF TOBRUK MEMORIAL



Early in 1998 the Bundaberg Rats of Tobruk (R.O.T.) committee approached the Bundaberg City Council to consider allocating some land, suitable in position and size, to erect a Memorial to commemorate the historic Siege of Tobruk, from 10th April to 7th December, 1941. The Council were very receptive to the request and asked the R.O.T. committee to supply detailed plans for the structure and their objectives, which would assist them in selecting a site.

The actual Monument design was already fixed, as it was to be a replica of the one built by the 9th. Division Engineers in the Tobruk cemetery during the 242 day siege, dedicated to those who paid the supreme sacrifice and those who have died since.

The site chosen by Council, was part of a park constructed by the Lions Club of Bundaberg some 20 years previous, and at a meeting between Council, R.O.T, and the Lions Club of Bundaberg, it was agreed that the proposal would be a wonderful community project. The Club accepted responsibility to organise and develop the project, and formed a small works planning group including representatives from all three parties. The group were fortunate to obtain the services of Mr. Stan Lohse, who had the constructional expertise to plan and supervise the technical work required. Stan had a lifetime in the building game, having the name Lohse Constructions responsible for many of the major buildings in the city, and has a record that is hard to equal in volunteering this expertise to community-based projects such as this. He was also the man to have in securing the required building materials from the various supply companies in the city, as donated or at a special cost.

The R.O.T. committee, Jack Toohey (President), Jack Liddell (V.P.), Eric Moar (Sec.) and Lester Tregear, 4 men all in their 80's, agreed to obtain whatever funding they could through Government, Veterans Affairs and public contributions, finally totalling around \$10,000. Late in April, a landscape plan was drawn up by a local company, and agreed to by council. It was a much more spectacular plan than any of the committee had originally envisaged, turning the entire area into a layout of gardens, lawns and pathways, with the Monument as the central feature. The initial planning was complete and with the R.O.T. setting October 30th 1998 as the official opening date, we had quite a job ahead of us.

PROJECT SUMMARY. The base for the monument was started on April 17th 1998, and work continued at a rather slow pace through May/June, because of some difficulties in securing volunteer trades people (bricklayers) at that time of the year. After June 30th things started to move along at a much more satisfying rate, with the cement block structure complete, the really big task of doing the pathways and gardens got underway. At this stage an irrigation company had become interested in what was happening and offered to supply materials to have a computer-controlled irrigation system around the monument installed at their cost. This later developed into a system that covered the whole area of lawns and gardens, but the installation would have to be our responsibility. This added many hours to the workload, but for the benefit and future maintenance of the Memorial Park, it was a very worthwhile addition to the plan. Electric power was installed, including two large sodium floodlights which operate every night with the street light control, providing a very pleasing view from the adjacent highway into the city, as well as a deterrent to any vandalism. The City Council Parks Dept. supplied the 12 developed palm trees and the majority of the plants and shrubs required from the council nursery. Early in the project, 2 members of the R.O.T. committee addressed the staff and students of the West State School, which borders one side of the Park, on the history of the event that this Memorial would commemorate. They became very interested and a section of the garden was set aside for a student group to plant and agreed to be responsible to maintain into the future, which was great to see. A brief cost summary of materials and volunteer labour used is as follows.
Monument:- 5 metres high, 300 cement blocks. Foundation and base surrounds:- 22 cubic met. concrete. Paths 340 sq. met., (34 cubic met. aggregate concrete) Lawn areas laid. 310 sq. met. Itemised list of materials paid for totaled \$13,310.00 Assessed value of materials and equipment donated \$30,104.00 Volunteer Labour Lions Club members =720 Hours Trades people & R.O.T. family members = 634 Hours Total 1354 Hours @ \$20 = \$27,080.00 Total. \$70,494.00 Note:-These hours do not include the many hours put in by the planning group during the project. This was the largest project that the Club had taken on for a number of years and was obviously enjoyed by the members, as the numbers were always readily available for the many working bees that were required to meet the deadline that had been set.

The Club was later involved in working with Council on beautifying the smaller park area (Boot Park) across from the R.O.T. Memorial, which now contains memorial plaques to the following wartime campaigns and groups: Royal Australian Navy & Merchant Navy Australian Flying Corps/Royal Australian Air Force Australian Defense Force (Women) 47th Australian Infantry Battalion (Wide Bay Regiment) Milne Bay Kokoda Campaign Australian Military Forces & Citizens Prisoners of War National Serviceman's Australian of Australia Korean War South Vietnam This area is aptly named Lions Remembrance Park. The Club should be proud to have been involved in creating a very much admired park area at such a visible position in our city. Contributed by Charter Member Noel Searle.

Bundaberg Lions Club members would like to express their sadness at the loss of Jack Toohey (Former President of the Rats of Tobruk Assn in Bundaberg) who died in August 2009. Jack was a very respected member of the Bundaberg community and will be missed.

[Interview with actual Rat Of Tobruk – John Shallcross 2012](#)

Go to the link below FYI

[Lions Remembrance Park is beside Rats Of Tobruk Park.](#)

PEACE POLE

Bundaberg has its own Peace Pole thanks to the Bundaberg Lions Club.

Buss Park Peace Pole marks 100 years of Lions Community Service.



On Thursday 21 September 2017, the International Day of Peace, members of the Bundaberg Lions Club joined councilors and staff of the Bundaberg Regional Council to unveil a peace pole in Buss Park. The peace pole has an octagonal cross-section with the message “May peace prevail on Earth” displayed in eight languages, significant to people of the Bundaberg district.

The Peace Pole is Bundaberg’s addition to the tens of thousands of similar monuments found in over 180 countries. The unveiling on 21 September 2017 coincided with a day designated by the United Nations General Assembly that is devoted to *strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples*. This sentiment aligns closely with the stated purposes of Lions Clubs International.

2017 also marks one hundred years since the international Lions organisation was formed. The Bundaberg Lions Club, formed in 1964, was Bundaberg’s first. Members continue to serve the Bundaberg community, more than fifty years later.

The concept of presenting a peace pole to the citizens of Bundaberg was promoted by past Club President, Rino Gastaldon. While attending the Lions International Convention in Toronto in 2014, Rino met Japanese Lions who were advocating the construction of peace poles around the world. He convinced Bundaberg Lions Club members of the project's worthiness; resulting in a lasting monument, in a prominent location, to promote international peace and celebrate a centenary of Lions' community service.

The languages displayed on the pole's eight surfaces have been selected for their close association with Bundaberg's history:

- **Gurang** – recognising the traditional owners of the land
- **Chinese** – in recognition of our Sister City, Nanning
- **Japanese** – in recognition of our sister City, Settsu
- **German** – honouring our early European settlers
- **Byslama** – respecting the role played by South Sea Islander people in the development of Bundaberg
- **Italian** – paying homage to the large Italian community, particularly in the farming sector
- **Filipino** – recognising the district's large Filipino community
- **English** – our most widely spoken language.

Lions thank Bundaberg Regional Council for its support for the project and various suppliers who donated materials, time and skills to complete the project.



Mayor of Bundaberg Regional Council congratulating Bundaberg Lions for the Peace Pole Project.

What is a Peace Pole you ask?

Check out Wikipedia [Peace Pole \(click to link\)](#)

FASHION FANTASIA

History of Fashion Fantasia

We are still trying to put a lot of history together. It predates computers and records are not complete and most involved have trouble remembering or have passed on. Fashion Fantasia was a good fundraiser that the Lions Ladies Auxiliary came up with. There were many ladies involved that had lead roles and who did a lot of hard work. Eva was the last Lion Lady of the era. So while Eva looks to be taking all the credit this is not the case. Eva is representing all the Ladies that were involved and has said that many times. (not always reported) As more information becomes available updates will be included here.

In 2001 the remaining Bundaberg Lions Ladies Auxiliary was presented James D Richardson by Bundaberg Lions Club for their many years of fundraising.

Fashion Fantasia, the event that set Bundaberg's style scene for decades

For almost three decades, Fashion Fantasia was a highlight on the Bundaberg social calendar.

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

WINNERS

1974 Cynthia Hoogstraten

1975 Cynthia Hoogstraten

1976 Cynthia Hoogstraten

1977 Jennie Herrod

1978 James Sankowsky

1979 Elaine Jensen

1980 Annette Blair

1981 James Sankowsky

1982 James Sankowsky

1983 Annette Blair

1984 Leanne Russell and
Narelle Curd

1985 Jacqui Dahl

1986 Terri Lee Trost
1987 Annette Blair
1988 Rhonda Modolo
1989 Joanne Santalucia
1990 Shirley Lucke
1991 Dwayne Blair
1992 Lynda Zunker
1993 Lynda Zunker
1994 Meena La Fien
1995 Tony Steindl
1996 Tony Steindl
1997 Val Cordon
1998 Michelle Moreno
1999 Lynda Zunker
2000 Lynda Zunker
2001 Lynda Zunker

When you talk to anyone who was part of Fashion Fantasia, there is one name that comes up again and again – Eva Anderson.

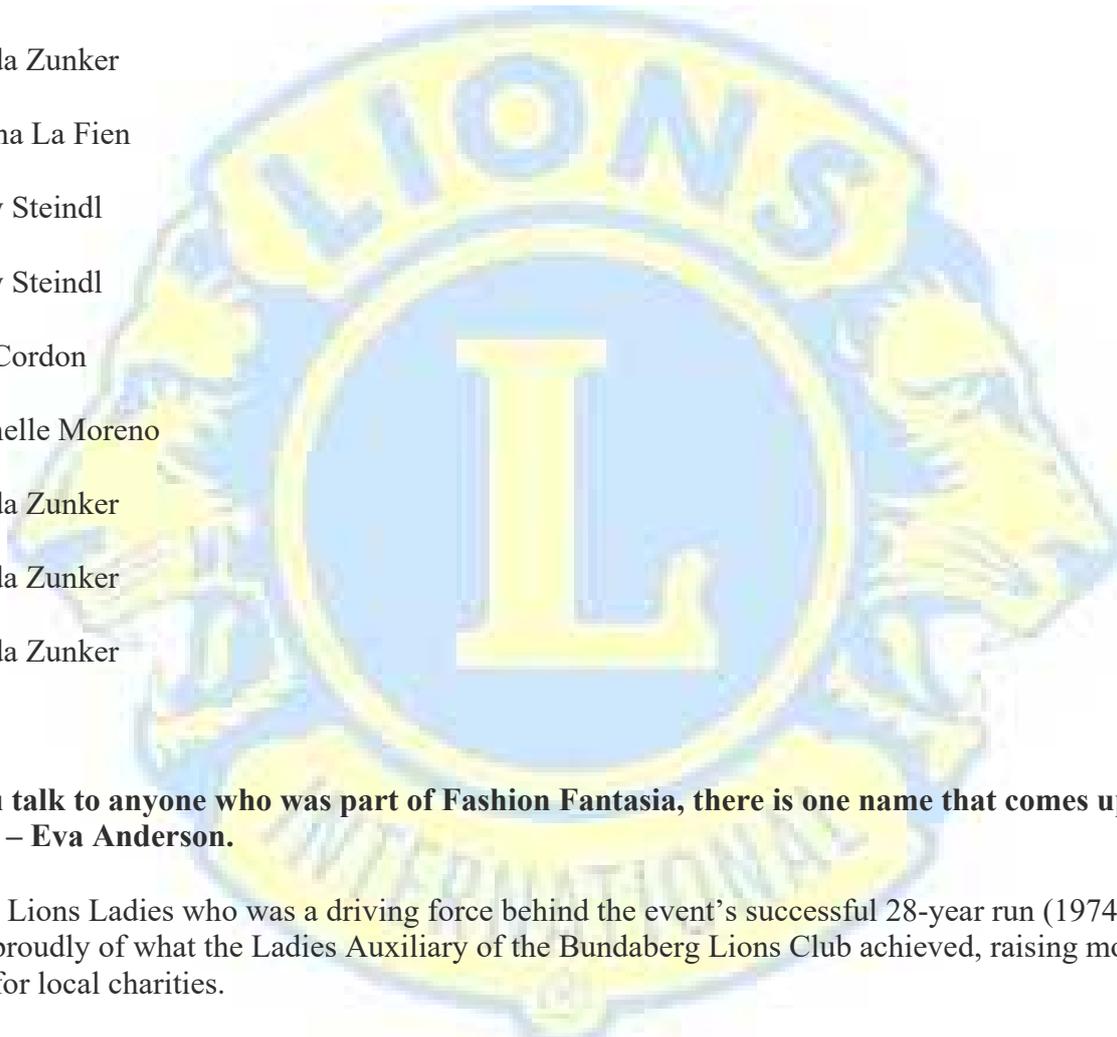
One of the Lions Ladies who was a driving force behind the event's successful 28-year run (1974 – 2001), Eva talks proudly of what the Ladies Auxiliary of the Bundaberg Lions Club achieved, raising more than \$150,000 for local charities.

The idea of Fashion Fantasia was simple. Clothing designers and seamstresses could enter their unique work in one of eight sections. Other special awards, including Designer of the Year, were awarded on the night. A basic pattern was able to be used, but maximum points were given for originality in the design.

Drawing entries from across Queensland, the hand-crafted creations were showcased at an annual fashion parade at Bundaberg Civic Centre, attracting more than 800 spectators.

“We used to pre-sell a lot of the tickets outside Charlton, Muller and Jones on Quay Street (now Charltons Lawyers). One year we sold 650 tickets in one morning,” Eva said.

“People were lined up from 5am because they knew where they wanted to sit. I couldn't understand why they were there so early with their chairs and their pillows.”



Eva can't quite remember where the original idea came from, but the drive to continue year after year was altruistic.

"It was all about making money for the Lions Club. And the greatest thing, the happiest thing of all, is when we got the money in from the event and could give it all out to local charities like health and aged care services, Meals On Wheels, Lifeline and the SES (State Emergency Service)."

In 1995 Fashion Fantasia became accredited as a Regional RAQ (Retailers Association Queensland) Fashion Design Awards. This meant the major prize winner was granted automatic entry into Queensland's biggest fashion event.

While Fashion Fantasia ended in 2001, the event continued for another year or two under the Style Spectacular banner, run by the Inner Wheel Club of Bundaberg Sunset Rotary, before folding for good.

For attendees, Fashion Fantasia was a great social event, but for many of the entrants it was a creative expression and the start of life-long careers.

Cynthia Hoogstraten was just 17-years-old when she entered the very first Fashion Fantasia in 1974 and won Designer Of The Year. She won again in 1975 and '76. "I entered mainly from my mother's encouragement," Cynthia said. "She gave me a little sewing machine. I didn't have a job, so I made that first winning outfit from calico because it was the cheapest fabric that I could work with. I was very feminine and loved lace, so I added that in to create lovely circles." Inspired by the fashions of the time, each of Cynthia's entries was different to the last. From there, Cynthia started modelling and worked in a Sunshine Coast clothing factory. She experimented with her own fabrics, creating textiles and wearable art.

Lynda Zunker took out the top accolade a record five times. Her creations were born from a love of fabrics. "I never designed a gown or garment unless I saw a fabric," Lynda said. "I'm not a great artist. I still can't draw a design; they are all in my head. When I found a fabric I knew exactly what I wanted to do with it. I used to make a lot of my designs out of curtain material, because that's where you see a lot of flowers, and I had a thing for flowers." Lynda was well-known for her beautiful formal and wedding gowns that she would create for local women. While she doesn't sew as much as she used to, she is excited to be making her granddaughter's prom dress in 2023.

THE FABRIC OF TIME

Arguably just as much of an icon in Bundaberg as Fashion Fantasia, Baxter's was the city's leading fabric store. While many fabric stores came and went (the last notable one was Bonnie Jeans), none evoke more nostalgia than Baxter's.

Tanya Chapman worked at Baxter's for nine years, from the time she was 16-years-old, before going on to start her own resortwear fashion label, Jotae, in 1993. "We sold to everyone, from up-and-coming fashion designers to mums making school uniforms or sewing something unique for their families," Tanya said. "The fabrics we kept at Baxter's were very different to some of the other stores in town at the time."

Located at 67 Bourbong Street (next to what is now The Hut Menswear), Baxter's was known for its impressive window displays and large range of formal fabrics. "Whenever you had a wedding party, that would take hours from a sales point of view," Tanya said. "They would be picking their fabrics then working out all the accessories. We kept those too, down to the tiaras, veils, and gloves." She said one of the most enjoyable parts of the job was styling mannequins in the shopfront windows, with fabrics and seasonal props, all hand made by Tanya.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES'S

Bourbon Street in the 1970s and '80s was very different from what it is now. Shopping was a special outing. And, yes – we even had department stores. It was a time when parcels were wrapped in paper and tied with string, and you could find everything you needed in just one shop. Across multiple floors were furniture, soft furnishings, fabrics, clothing, cosmetics and music, through to grocery and deli items.

Long-time locals remember when the Dimmey's building, opposite Chemist Warehouse, was John Black's department store, which became Reid's and then Wyper Brothers. Many think it then became Buss and Turner, forgetting the decade it was actually a David Jones department store.

Olsen's Corner Foodworks deli manager Lyn Jeffery worked at David Jones for ten years. Despite this fact, many people still try to tell her Bundaberg was never home to the iconic department store. "It was just like you used to see in the big cities. It was a very upmarket store with all the high-quality perfumes. It was all quality brands throughout the store, no cheapness whatsoever, right down to the chocolates," Lynn said. "The decorations were just outstanding. Everything had to be highly-decorated and beautifully done."

Menswear store Buss and Turner, which was established in 1876 and located next door, bought out David Jones and expanded to become a full department store. Buss and Turner ceased trading in 2000.

Cynthia Hoogstraten took out the top accolade at Fashion Fantasia, designer of the year, for the first three years.

SECRET TO success

You can tell from the way Fashion Fantasia organiser Eva Anderson speaks, the iconic event was run with a firm hand. It had to start on time and finish at a decent hour. When the judges began taking too much time with their deliberations, the event moved to a pre-judged format. Eva also insisted it had to be inexpensive to attend.

Eva said it was a monumental collaboration that worked because everyone played their part, but the success didn't come easy. Spectators spent liberally on raffle tickets. Businesses donated generously. And the committee worked incredibly hard.

"Most of the shops in town were kind to us, because we gave them as much publicity as we could. We wouldn't have raised as much as we did if we didn't have the backing of local business. We got everything for free," Eva said. "When I look back on it, it was a lot of work. We had barely tidied up and people were speaking to me about the following year's event and I was booking the Civic Centre once again. I would get phone calls at all times of the day, some at 11pm."

Timeline

- 1960's Bruce Highway completed connecting Brisbane to Cairns
- 1970's Brisbane floods worst since 1893, led to Wivenhoe Dam construction.
- 1980's World Expo 88 in Brisbane to celebrate Australia's bicentenary.
- 1990's Tilt Train service runs from Brisbane to Rockhampton.
- 2000's Maroon named as Qld's State colour & Qld population hits four million.
- 2010's Major floods in Bundaberg 2011 & 2013, the worst for over 60 years.
- 2020's Covid pandemic restrictions. Over 7 million die worldwide.

Till We Meet Again

(Tune "Till We Meet Again")

**Smile the while and let us part once more
With the echo of the Lions Roar
Ringin proudly as before
In the name of Lions service
Let our hands be ever there to grip
Man to man, the clasp of friendship
And in that spirit we'll remain
Till we meet again.**

