



## Augusta Margaret River Mail

Wednesday 16/9/2009

Page: 18

Section: General News

Region: Augusta WA Circulation: 6,486

Type: Regional

Size: 30.13 sq.cms.

Frequency: --W----

Brief: ROTARY

## Motorhome calvacade

THE Winnebago RV Club will visit Margaret River and Augusta on its way through the South West.

The collection of nearly 20 motorhomes will experience the area after meeting in Bunbury on September 18.

Rotary and Winnebago have been travelling together since March this year to promote Australian Rotary Health.

The group left Melbourne and have travelled through the country, and will stop in Adelaide before returning to Melbourne on October 10.



## Our Long Term Investment In Young People

### Indigenous Health Scholarship

With the support of the Australian Rotary Health Fund, which meets 50% of the \$5,000 per year we are investing in her scholarship, Nicole Willmett is studying psychology and exercise at The University of the Sunshine Coast, with a clear goal of going back into indigenous communities to work in mental health. Specifically, she wants to get students back into school by building their confidence.

Nicole's goal was inspired by members of her own family. Her father is a football coach, and had long observed that indigenous kids' grades improve as their confidence on the field does. Her great uncle, a school teacher to indigenous

students, was one of Queensland's first Aborigines to graduate from university. And Nicole's grandmother spent a career assisting with indigenous housing issues.

"I'd like to be a role model for younger Aboriginal kids too" Nicole says. With the support of her USC scholarship it's all but certain she will be.



### Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA)

The Rotary Club of Nambour participated in its first RYDA program this year. Here is an extract from the report of Doug Chetwynd, the club's Youth Activities Director –

"The RYDA Program is a road safety education program aimed at reducing death and injury amongst young people on Australian roads. It targets 16 to 17 year olds, and is a community-based initiative of Rotary Clubs, partnering those organisations in our community that have a responsibility for, or interest in, road safety and youth.

The first RYDA day in Nambour was held Monday 24th August 2009 at the Nambour Showgrounds. Almost 180 students attended along with their teachers from Nambour State High School, Burnside State High School and St John's College. Teachers from Matthew Flinders Anglican College also attended to assess the program for next year. Approximately 30 Rotarians from the Rotary clubs of Nambour, Nambour 76, Alexandra Headlands, Noosa, Buderim, Caloundra and Woombye attended to assist with the running of the program. The day was a great success. The aim is to have every year eleven student on the Sunshine Coast attend this program each year."

### The Nambour Rotary Club Teaching Fellowship

Student scholarships are important. In fact, the Nambour Rotary club has since the inception of the program supported the combined initiative of the Rotary Clubs of the Sunshine Coast in funding scholarships each year to postgraduate students at the University of the Sunshine Coast - three this year, each for \$2,500.

But equally important (perhaps more important) is an investment in the professional development of our teachers, for the values each of them impart inevitably have a life long influence on hundreds of students.

Believing this, the Rotary Club of Nambour this year invested \$70,000 in a fund to provide a minimum of \$3,000 per annum (adjusted periodically for inflation) for a Teaching Fellowship designed to add value to the education of USC students

by enhancing the knowledge and experience of their academic staff.



The inaugural teaching fellowship was presented in May 2009 by Nambour Rotary Club president Lionel Ash to professor of higher education Glynis Cousin of the University of Wolverhampton in the United Kingdom.

USC Office of Learning and Teaching manager Tilly Hinton, in her report to the Rotary Club, wrote "I have every confidence that Glynis's visit is the beginning of a long and fruitful collaboration between our two institutions. Her work in curriculum design and fostering research into student learning is very timely and relevant for us. I couldn't have wished for a stronger or more inspiring way to lunch the Nambour Rotary Club Teaching Fellowship"

### **High School Bursaries**

Early in the life of the club, when we didn't have much money and the families of many of the students had less, our fairly modest bursaries to assist outstanding final year students undertake further tertiary education at University level were greatly appreciated.

Justice Richard Cooper QC was a bright 16 year old student at Nambour High School in 1963 when our club invested a small but at the time significant sum in his future with the award of one of our annual bursaries.

He had set his heart on a career in law, but when family circumstances changed, his dream of studying law at the University of Sydney were shattered. The bursary helped to buy books. One of our members took him to Brisbane and introduced him to the senior partner in one of the large law firms (a Rotarian), who employed him as an articled clerk. Two years later he won a Commonwealth Scholarship and was able to attend University full time. After graduation he practiced at the Bar for a period, was appointed a Queens Counsel in 1982, a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1989, and in 1992 (aged 45) was appointed Judge of the Federal Court of Australia.

In a tribute to him following his tragic death on 14 March 2005, Justice James Allsop, said "He was a great judge and a fine man. He displayed his skill and interest in all aspects of the Court's work, but his special interests and loves were maritime law, administrative law, trade practices and native title. At the ceremonial sitting at the Court in Brisbane, after his death, the moving tributes that were read out from indigenous elders whose native title cases he had heard or dealt with illuminated the depth of Richard's spirit by the heart-felt and poetic terms of their expression"

We knew him as a young man of great ability, who may well have reached his lofty goal without our assistance; but we like to think that our modest financial help and our personal interest in him contributed a little to his brilliant career.



**The law on their side ... Justice Richard Cooper with children at Aurukun**