

IDLE CHATTER Mark II

Newsletter No: 499

Thursday 14th July 2022

This newsletter is an initiative of the Quandialla Progress Association

Sponsored by Quandialla Bowling Club

Walk Back in Time

Nearly ten years of writing and printing our newsletter since 2012 and next week I will be sending out IC No: 500. Looking back, I want to ask where have those years gone and who would have thought I could rabbit on for that long, certainly not me.

Being a little bit nostalgic this last week or so, I have been going through newspaper articles when our village was gazetted and how it grew and prospered, and sadly the decline, through no fault of its' own other than progress. I've even gone through our History Book reading our memories and about the generation that put Quandialla on the map.

I never thought as a 16 year-old when my family arrived in Quandialla in 1969 that I would be still living here when my goal in life then was to get out of town as soon as possible. How things change, I made friends and saw my new home through different eyes, married, had kids, and started thinking about what I wanted out of life for my family.

I'm pleased to say that we have achieved that, 4 wonderful children who all call Quandialla their first home and know that a country upbringing has given them the steppingstone for the lives they are living today. We gave them the best education that we could and thankfully they didn't waste their time while at school and university. They all have good careers, and the family joke is that they will keep us in the luxury that we are expecting in our twilight years when and if we need their help.

The flip side of this little story is that I didn't want to live in the sticks (as I called it then) I wanted to get back to the city (Sydney) as fast as I could, but Quandialla and the people grew on me, and I have grown to love the place. Over the years I made lots of friends, sadly some have passed, and others have retired and left town and I imagine that will also be us one day. But until then we will continue to live here and work and support Quandialla in any way that we can.

I must say that I am a very lucky girl that made the right choice in picking my husband who does not hanker for a beach view in his retirement and is happy to make Quandialla or another country town his home base when we do decide to retire.

Earlier in this story I mentioned about looking back at our history and because news / gossip is scarce at the moment I will be including a story that was in our History Book, because we should remember or learn (for our new residents) about the area where we reside. I haven't gone back to when Quandi was such a thriving place that you didn't have to travel to shop, but I hope you enjoy the story that Jack Mitchell wrote for the first Idle Chatter in 1967 and was included in our History Book about a special celebration for the community.

Back to Quandialla Day – 1967

The following is extracts from a report that appeared in Idle Chatter in 1967.

I went to sleep.....and dreamt of marching girls in front of a band. There was a real band with the boom-booms and the ump-oars all in the right places. Bicycles decorated in every colour of the blessed rainbow and swaggies, there was that many of them I thought the depression was once again with us. In particular there was one character that Constable Middlemiss should have run out of town on appearance alone.

A bike loaded with everything from the kitchen sink to a “you know what” and pushed by the most disreputable limping “Down and out”. A superb float from the Show Society featured a multitude of ribbons with wool and other products, it was beautifully decorated. The CWA Ladies had evidently worked very hard on their contribution to the procession. It was in the Association colours and its theme was service to the women and children of the district. Then there was a simple float and on that float were some young folk, many of them were wearing medals, no doubt earned by their Fathers in the past. It was the R.S.L. float and there was a dignity about it and pride.

The Bland Rodeo Committee had a bucking horse which was most certainly a product of my nightmare. Ross Causer seized on the opportunity to display the red, white and blue of the Ampol Co. Smart boy this Ross, he doesn't miss a trick. And there they sat in all their glory. The Past President, the President and two of the leading exponents of the game of bowls. On the “green” in front of them was a little white Jack with three bowls touching. This was done to fool the natives. They don't really do those things on the fair dinkum green, but still it was nice, and it was good to see the photograph of Doc Blamey the founder of the club. How he would have loved to see your efforts on Saturday. Golfers were there in full swing, but you didn't have to frighten the life out of me. When I passed a complimentary remark to a very well-known golfer, he let go with a swing and connected with something white. For one moment I thought it was a ball as it flew towards me, but like all golfers – he missed, and so no harm was done. The Auxiliaries of the Hall and the Hospital banded together to enter a float depicting one of their most prolific money raising activities – a street stall and if we hadn't kept an eye on them they would have been selling you something as they went along.

Not all the effort had been put into the floats, not by a long way. The Weddin Shire Council had done their bit to make the day. The gutters had been cleared of all rubbish and gaily coloured bunting was hung from every available point. The local shop keepers had gone to great trouble to present a more colourful front to the locals and visitors alike. The café had done some pretty good research to obtain the information which was displayed in their window. It is still there and if you haven't read it all I would advise you to do so. The C & M store went all artistic and actually painted a landscape to fill up their window and also showed some interesting photographs. Charlie Broben's swimming pool effort was perhaps the most topical and showed forethought and with assistance of many of the locals, the Bland District Store displayed many articles of historic interest. Even the baker made an effort together with the Bland Motors so all the old village took upon itself a real gala appearance and if you cared to look closely at Hopley's window you could have seen some interesting clothing.

I am sure that you will have noticed that I have refrained from mentioning names as much as possible. In an effort as big as the “Back to Quandialla day” many folk have worked and worked darn hard to make it the success it undoubtedly proved to be.

So, my personal thanks go to the Officers of the Ladies Swimming Pool Auxiliary, Barbara Sinclair – President, Dot McAlister – Secretary and Fay Armour – Treasurer. Late final report that over \$1000 was grossed over the weekend. A mighty effort....."Good on yer" Quandialla.....

Written by Jack Mitchell

The "Back to Quandialla" weekend was organised by the Quandialla Swimming Pool Auxiliary to help raise much needed funds for the wonderful swimming pool we enjoy today.

QUANDIALLA FRIDAY NIGHT JACKPOTS:

Bland Hotel Joker Jackpot Draw

The Joker Jackpot was not claimed and this week the jackpot will be **\$900**, and you have 6 chances to win a meat tray and a chance to choose the Joker Card.

Quandialla Bowling Club Draws

The Riverina Club Draw and Members Draw was not claimed last week so this Friday the Riverina Jackpot will jackpot to **\$5000**, and the Members Club Draw was claimed by Bev K last week and will start again at \$50.

Remember if your badge number is drawn for any of the jackpots
YOU MUST BE AT THE CLUB to claim your prize when it is announced.

Good Luck Everyone



BLAND HOTEL

Open: 12 Midday – Monday to Saturday

Meals available from the Bistro

Lunch 12 to 2pm & Dinner 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Dine In or Take Away & Don't Forget – Pizza Night on Wednesdays.

QUANDIALLA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

An Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Quandialla Hospital Auxiliary will be held on Monday 18th July at 9.30am at the Quandialla Health Centre to discuss the Future of the Auxiliary with a possible amalgamation with our sister auxiliary Grenfell Hospital Auxiliary.

QUANDIALLA SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL **& PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

The next General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th July at 7.30pm
at the Bland Hotel Dining Room.

All Welcome

QUANDIALLA BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Friday 15th July opening at 6pm –

Don't forget our Friday Night 12 Tray Meat Raffle,

Also, the Riverina Jackpot & Members Draw.

Sunday 17th July opening at 10 am – Sunday Papers available

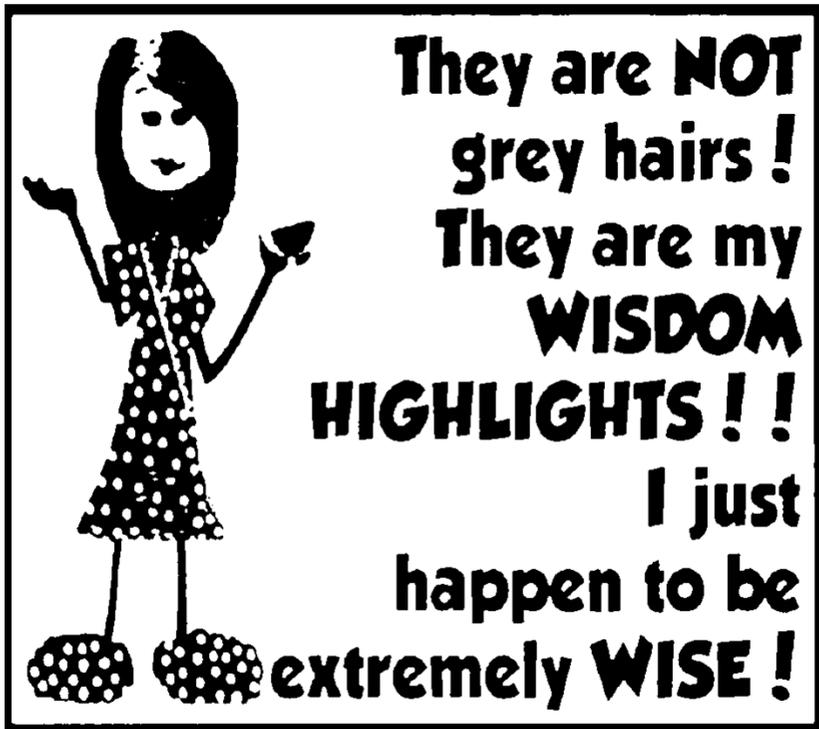
Quandialla Bowling Club SUBS are NOW DUE

Please Note: You must be a member to be in the running to win any of the club jackpots.
New members welcomed.

GROCERIES AVAILABLE

in QUANDIALLA at the BLAND HOTEL

Fresh Bread – Papers – Hot coffee!!!!!! Fruit / Veg & other necessities.
Best meat pies (available frozen as well)
& Car and Truck Batteries & Oil.



Cheers until next week *Sue Priestley*