

CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Fun and Friendship with
Family and Friends

RNA 'HIGHTEA' FUNDRAISER 2023

This year, the RNA's 'High Tea' Fundraiser was held on a Friday (11th Aug.). 400 ladies, from near and far, turned up to support an event which has now celebrated its seventh year. **We are delighted to announce that this year's function raised just over \$39,000.00.**

For those of you who are not aware of where our fundraising has been directed, here is the list of organisations/charities which have benefited since our Inauguration in 2015:

2015 Longreach & Charleville Schools of Distance Education;

2016 Mt Isa & Charters Towers Schools of Distance Education;

2017 'Lady Cilento Children's Hospital School' now known as the 'Queensland Children's Hospital School';

2018 'Western Alliance';

2019 'BUSHkids';

2020/21 Cancelled due to Covid

2022 'Outback Futures'

This year Lyn French spoke on behalf of our chosen beneficiary - 'BushED'. Its 'Mothers in Arms' project is aimed at

supporting new mothers and their journey raising a child from birth to Pre-School.

Link to BushED website

In Lyn's own words:

"Mothers In Arms is an initiative to connect new mums with experienced mums – to share life experiences, challenges and wins. It's a support program that helps mums understand themselves and accept that not everything will be or has to be perfect. Our buddy mums provide peer support and should our mums require additional professional support, our partners Virtual Psychologists will connect and provide our mums with next level support. This is a partnership of care.

We appreciate and thank you for the contribution that is being offering to BushED, We know it will make a huge impact to hundreds of rural and remote women's lives. Your donation will also help many in rural and remote QLD to receive resources to help prepare them for their teaching role whilst at the same time providing the new born with stimulating educational related materials that will help mum and child be up to speed on day 1 of schooling."

Lyn French (CEO) speaking
on behalf of 'BushED'



Selena Gomersall representing
'Outback Futures'



Lyn's passionate presentation included her own personal experience in raising three children while living in remote outback Qld. Her heartfelt words resonated well with the rural guests. Many (now with grown up children), remember those early days of returning home with their newborn baby – often hundreds of kilometres from the nearest neighbouring property.

Also attending was Selena Gomersall from 'Outback Futures'. Our funds last year went towards implementing their 'Rumbles Quest' within the Mt Isa region.

Link to 'Outback Futures' VIDEO

Selena spoke about the positive outcomes that last year's fundraising efforts have helped produce. It was an informative

and uplifting presentation as everyone always greatly appreciates being brought up-to-date with what has happened to the previous year's funds.

I include here an Ekka TV link which contains comments from ladies involved in our annual get-together:

Link to Ekka TV interviews

While the main aim of this event is to raise funds to support rural and isolated families, 'Fun and Friendship with Friends and Family' is also a major drawcard for all who attend. Ladies travel from near and far, making early August a regular time for catching up with some who they haven't seen for a year.

Our ever supportive "M.C." was 'Landline'

ABC Television commentator, Pip Courtney. Pip has covered (for more than 30 years) Australian-wide issues that affect the bush. In 2011, she was named as the world's best agricultural reporter and has subsequently been inducted into the Rural Press Club's Rural Journalism Hall of Fame.

Pip opened the event by introducing our Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeanette Young AC PSM. The Governor spoke knowledgeably of the difficulties experienced by those who live hundreds/sometimes thousands of kilometres from 'big city' amenities.

She also stressed how important it is that people who are living in remote regions know that others actually care about them.

Pip Courtney our "M.C." for seven consecutive years



CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Honourable Doctor Jeannette Young AC PSM with members of the fundraising committee Margi Adnam, Jane Thomas, Gina Fairfax and Alison Chandler.



The Governor's address was followed by a viewing of the traditional EKKA Fashion Parade. This year, for the first time, the event featured children's apparel – paraded by four delightful young models (aged between 5-7 years).

At the conclusion of the Fashion Parade everyone remained seated for the 'Live' Auction. We were delighted to again welcome professional cattle/sheep auctioneer Bernadette Binnie from Tamworth.

Four major items went under her hammer:

* **One week's accommodation in a 3 Bedroom Penthouse at 'Costa Nova'.** This Sunshine Beach venue features huge ocean, beach and coastline views and was donated by the Fairfax Family;

* **A three night stay at the Sunshine Coast.** This lovely beach house, donated

by Kate McIntyre, can accommodate up to 11 guests and is perfect for an idyllic beach-break with family or friends;

* **Vintage Gatelink Padlock Bracelet.** This dramatic four rail bracelet is hung with a heart-shaped padlock and safety chain. Made in Rose Gold, 18cm, it was donated by Patti Sedgwick owner of Sedgwick Antique and Estate Jewellery.

* **Voucher for a whole lamb** donated by Bernadette Binnie.

It was time for 'High Tea'!!! With a delicious array of bite-sized morsels on offer and a topped-up beverage, 'Meeting and Greeting' started in earnest. Amidst gentle background vocal music, guests took the opportunity to rekindle old friendships while creating new. The EKKA is all about people enjoying themselves and this event always manages to launch everyone into happy social mingling.

Bernadette Binnie, our 'Live' Auctioneer, in action



CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Raffle Table interest was high



Raffle Ticket buying was particularly popular this year - achieving a new milestone and raising over \$14,700.00. It was such a colourful, interesting and varied array of prizes.

As with all fundraising activities, the event's success relies heavily upon the generosity of its supporters. I wish to sincerely thank all those who provided Raffle and Live Auction items.

We hope this acknowledgement does not embarrass anyone of those who so willingly offered their support in this most important part of our fundraising activity:

Alice Greenup

Andrea Crothers – Restaurant voucher

Ellen Gett – Basket of 'Ariat' products

Kate McIntyre

Kate Warby

'La Boite Theatre Company'

'McCulloch Agencies', Tamworth

'Mister Botanical Floral Design'

'Pamela's Pantry' – Baskets of goodies

Patti Sedgwick – 'Sedgwick Antique and Estate Jewellery'

Pia du Pradal

RNA

Rydges Fortitude Valley

Sarah McCamley

The Fairfax Family

Zoe Buchanan – 'Benita Red' Massage Sessions

The Hostesses, Committee and I are both proud and delighted that the RNA's 2022 'High Tea' Fundraiser raised over \$39,000.00.

We wish to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the success of this event and look forward to welcoming our family and fundraising friends (both new and old) to another Exciting, Enjoyable and Entertaining EKKa Event in 2024.

Best wishes until then,

Jane Thomas



The fundraising committee and hostesses

CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Keely Mancini from Brisbane, Jane McNamara from the Sunshine Coast and Michie McNamara from Brisbane



Rowena Hogan from Toowoomba, Diane Griffin from Yuleba and Pia Du Pradal



Georgina Ferris, Kathleen Armstrong and Edwina Adnam



Leigh Finnemore from the Gold Coast, Maleea Forbes from Sydney and Camilla Hanbury from Brisbane



Joan Scott and Regina Cotter



CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Amy Vincent from Brisbane, Phoebe Dunn from Brisbane and Mindy Vincent from Brisbane



Louise Shields, Garth Reid and Tricia Munn



Friendship



Kate Mod from Brisbane, Victoria Michels from Ascott, Renee Bidwell from Hendra, Meredith Burke from Brisbane, Regina Cotter from Hendra, Sarah Fraser from Hendra, Louise Hartley from Hendra



Singer Emma Irene and her accompaniment



Raffle/Sedgewick Antiques

CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Marricka Clancy from Turec in Clermont and Bonnie Coolee from Versdale in Childers



Sarah Wishart from Clayfield, Sherrie Chalmers from Kalinga and Jency Gunn from Clayfield



CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Tracey Alder from Brisbane and Lyn French from North Queensland also from the charity BushED



Sonia Morgan, Kelly Ostwald and Andrea Lethbridge



Anna Forrest and Wendy Goodwin from Brisbane



Katie Norman from the Gold Coast and Hannah Barr from Brisbane

