

A Potted History of The Rotary Club of Nambour 76

Compiled December 2004 by Bruce Lawton (with assistance from Ron Garrett) for the District 9600 publication "The Spinning Wheel" to be launched on the 100th Anniversary of Rotary on 23 Feb 2005.

"The Club that counts, for the people that count"

(A reference to the work conducted by many years at the Show & Expo gates - "counting" for our community - "the people that count".)

This history begins around 1980, as previous matters have been dealt with in an earlier publication by the District.

The Rotary Club of Nambour 76 was chartered on 15/06/1976, and derives its name from the year it was chartered. We were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nambour. In 1992, we continued the pattern of growth by sponsoring the Rotary Club of Woombye Sunrise.

We were a young and energetic club, and tackled a huge project in 1979 to commence a second retirement village for the Nambour area. This project spanned several years, was undertaken in conjunction with the Nambour Club, and eventually saw us donate \$13000.00 to the project. Eventually the village amalgamated with the existing Sundale Retirement village, and today bears the name of Rotary Garden Village. It was opened by RI President Bill Skelton on 07 April 1984.

Community support from Nambour 76 has always been strong, and in 1984, the club constructed a helipad for emergency rescue services at the Nambour General Hospital. We have donated several thousand dollars to the rescue service over the years.

As an indication of the work being done in that era, the club won the Sir Lionel McCray Trophy for the Best Overall Club in the District in 1988.

A FAIM trip to Bema in New Guinea in 1996 by two of our club, together with two Rotarians from Woombye Sunrise Club, saw the start of construction of a girls' dormitory block at the mission school. Subsequently, the club was able to fill many items on the school's wish list of requirements.

Following the sudden death of one of our stalwart members in December 1998, The Peter Bennett Memorial Shield was initiated, for awarding to club members as recognition for "going that extra mile". It is presented each year at Changeover.

Sadness invades all avenues of our lives from time to time. A group of people on the Sunshine Coast had commenced the Cittimani Hospice to provide palliative care for terminally ill patients. Cittimani has been of assistance to quite a few of our members and their loved ones, and Nambour 76 has had the privilege of being able to assist Cittimani with several re-locations, and ultimately with purchase of their own premises at Palmwoods.

Although women had been joining Rotary for some years, we inducted our first female member at changeover in 2000.

The following year, 2001, saw a combined changeover dinner and 25th Anniversary Dinner for our club. What a fantastic night of memories that was, with many of the original Charter Members being invited to attend, along with many of the people and organisations that we had assisted over the years.

In September 2001, the club was humbled to be invited to a thank-you dinner hosted by the Salvation Army. The Salvos have been a long term significant beneficiary of our club, and this was their way of saying thank-you and acknowledging our assistance over the years.

Nambour Adventure Playground Committee approached the local Rotary clubs in 2000, to see if we were able to assist with their large scale community Adventure Playground in the centre of town. Nambour 76, together with Nambour and Woombye Sunrise clubs, and many other community organisations and individuals, contributed expertise, manpower, and money to enable completion of the Playground. Our part of the project involved construction of a Music Pavilion, which was handed over to the Playground Committee in December 2002.

World Conventions are always an important function on the Rotary Calendar. Brisbane was host in June 2003. Our club attendance was very strong, and we were very pleased to later receive an award for the club with the highest number of members attending the Convention.

People are what makes a club, and among our excellent membership we have one with 26 years of 100% Attendance, and another who has had over 41 years of continuous service spanning several clubs. We are fortunate to still have two of our Charter Members in the club.

Nambour 76 has some long running community projects such as :-

- Annual Special Schools Swimming Carnival - We have put this on for 26 years

- Management of Show Gates for the Sunshine Coast Show Society for the last 27 years. Our long running publication "The Nonicle" raised many thousands of dollars, but, unfortunately, with the rise of "political correctness", it ceased in 1997.

- Management of the Gates for Qld Home & Garden Expo for the last 19 years

Other projects include

- Annual manning the bar for the Scottish New Year

- Annual Uniting Church/Crossroads barbeque for the disadvantaged

- Annual Sugar Festival with a strawberries and cream stall for several years. This festival is now in doubt following the demise of the Sugar Cane industry in this area.

We have had countless Youth Exchange students, both inbound and outbound over the years, missing only the odd year here and there, and of course, we have participated in many of the well known Rotary projects such as Pride of Workmanship, Shine on Awards, Group Study Exchange, NYSF, RYLA, RYPEN, FAIM, Kits for Kids, and regular contributions to DIK.

Many Paul Harris Fellow Recognitions have been made over the years with total donations now in excess of US \$54000.00

In recent years, we have been successful in sponsoring an Interact Club at Nambour High School, with the Charter taking place on 27/11/2002. It continues to grow in strength.