

# Award for Dennis



Longford's Dennis Betts admits to being a little surprised when he heard that he had been awarded the Order of Australia Medal on Australia Day. He recalls that almost two years earlier he had learned of a nomination for such an award, but over time it had slipped to the back of his mind.

Dennis spent the whole of his working life in the public education system, starting at New Norfolk in 1974. Other appointments included Riverside High School, Cressy, as a senior staff member between 1982 and 1989, and then as Principal of Ravenswood High, Brooks High and completing his career as Principal of Newstead College in 2008.

Perhaps one of the main reasons for Dennis's success was that he always liked meeting and speaking with students, and was continually impressed with the empathy and loyalty shared between young students.

At Brooks High School Dennis was instrumental in facilitating the "No Dole Program" in which pupils commit to further education or full time employment after they leave year ten. Dennis says that this concept was embedded into the curriculum, providing all students with a vision of a positive future into their working lives. Brooks High School became a national model for the No Dole Program, to the extent that it was written in the Australian Newspaper that Brooks High School was one of the premier schools in Australia.

Whilst at Ravenswood High School, Dennis Betts introduced the "Walk Tall" program, which set out to recognise the value of the local community. Positive outcomes for the community as a result of the Walk Tall program included transport upgrades, footpath construction, community beautification, involvement with the school education committee, and numerous sport and recreation undertakings. These successes created an interdependence between the community and the school, which resulted in a growing sense of pride and esteem in the whole community.

A school principal for half of his teaching life, Dennis has a couple of sayings which might encapsulate his attitude and explain his success. "The further you push your pupils away ... the more you have to bring them back" and "We came to drain the swamp ... not to fight the crocodiles". Dennis further explained that he never insisted on apologies, instead he encouraged his pupils to "make their peace".

Some of the more pleasant memories of his career were at his last posting as Principal of the 800 pupil Newstead College, where he was simply "Dennis" to his pupils and staff, and he saw the pupils blossoming into adulthood, displaying their emerging talents, and building positive and caring relationships.

One of the enduring pleasures of being an educator, is the surprising number of ex pupils who might meet their former teacher with the greeting "G'day Mr Betts, do you remember me?"

One suspects that the renewal of acquaintances such as these will serve to remind Dennis Betts well into the future of the valuable contribution he made to the lives of thousands of young people, and of a life totally dedicated to the provision of meaningful education in Tasmania.

Congratulations Dennis Betts on your Order of Australia Medal.

## Eskleigh Doll, Bear and Miniature Fair

The always popular Doll, Bear and Miniature Fair will once again be held at the Country Club Resort, Prospect on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March, 2009, from 10am. All proceeds will benefit the residents of Eskleigh Home at Perth.

Amongst the attractions will be a cloth doll display, a collection of "Mobo" tin horses and toys, a "Lines" rocking horse, dating back to 1880 (Mobo toys and rocking horse on loan from Jenny Massey).

There will be more than 50 trade stalls, selling all types of bears and dolls, along with bear, doll and miniature supplies.

Also there will be a special display of a Steiff Titanic Bear - valued at \$250,000, on loan from Kerri Beggs from Melbourne.

Doll valuations between 2 and 3pm each day - bring your favourite along for a quote.

## Campbell Town says thanks

The Campbell Town community wishes to thank those members of the Church of the Latter Day Saints in Launceston who came to Campbell Town on Saturday February 14 and voluntarily tidied up the old Anglican Cemetery in Church Street.

Approximately 40 adults together with younger family members gave the Campbell Town community half a day of their time, leaving behind a very neat cemetery.

Special thanks also to locals Jill and Warren Clarke for catering for the group, and to Peter Grey and Landcare for their assistance and advice

## Temporary closure for Louisa

Louisa Barwick, owner and operator of the Big Wok Chinese Takeaway in Longford wishes to advise her valued clients that her business will be temporarily closed from March 9th to reopen in mid April.

Louisa advises that she is travelling overseas to visit her aged father, who is in his nineties, and who is currently unwell. Family members will remain living in the premises whilst Louisa is away.

## Street Concert in Ross

Jalsa Creole will be appearing in a concert in the main street of Ross on the evening of Saturday, 4th April at 8pm. The concert is part of the 10 Days on the Island events.

The band of 8 or 9 musicians come from Mauritius and will delight the crowd with their lively Salsa - based music. The main street of Ross will be closed to traffic from the corners of Bridge Street and High Street for the event. While the staging is underway during the day, there will be detours from Bridge Street, down Bond Street to gain access into Church Street.

To top the event off, the entertainment is free! People are encouraged to bring along picnic rugs or chairs and a hamper, if they wish, to enjoy the event. Food and beverages will also be available for sale on the night.

## Visit to local development



The planned expansion of the Longford based Tasmanian Gourmet Kitchen is nearing completion and will open in early April. The first stage of a new commercial production facility, in Carins Street, will allow a 300% increase in production over time, and offer employment opportunities in due course.

Co owner Bill Dowling said that the company had strong exports to Singapore, with numerous enquiries from the UK, along with strong growth within Australia. The facility was visited by State Liberal Members on Monday 16th February.

The State Liberals have a strong program of community visits. The visits include visits to key businesses or assets, meetings with community and business groups and councils.

On this particular visit Rene Hidding and the Opposition team visited Woolmers to support the Woolmers/Brickendon bid for its World Heritage listing, a major egg production facility, a meeting with the Glover Prize organisers, meeting with Deloraine businesses and many more visits over two days.

The visit to Mr Dowling's new factory was to highlight and support new investment in food excellence and also for the team to meet the creator of the astonishingly good Bills Beetroot Marmalade - a national gourmet sensation.

Pictured above, at the new site are State Liberal Members Michael Hodgeman, co owner of the Tasmanian Gourmet Kitchen Bill Dowling, Will Hodgeman, Rene Hidding and Jeremy Rockliffe.

## Psst...Wanna know a secret?

The worst kept secret in Longford! Yes the Longford Lunchbox is up for sale! It is time for me (Richard) and Matthew to move on to improve our other lives in our chosen professions. No, unlike the gossip, we are not leaving to live in Europe or anywhere else, Longford is for us. Should anyone in the district be interested in our thriving business please drop in for a chat - it could be worth it. Having made our announcement, business must go on, and as we head towards our cooler months our offerings change to hot meals, soups, casseroles, but maintaining our popular fresh salads.

Our motto is "Consciously Good Food" and we will be sticking to that for the benefit of our valued regular, return and new customers. We emphasise that there will be no downturn in service, quality, quantity or price given the recent announcement.

Our mini single serve meals are a great hit with our seniors, and it is our delight to prepare these special meals for them.

If you want to change from fat food to fine food, please drop in and see us, Merise and Richard will be pleased to see you and be of service to you.

This is a paid advertisement.

## You won't find us here!



The Longford Pharmacy has been omitted from the 2009 telephone directory - both white and yellow pages.

Cut off the black portion of this advert and place it in a prominent position in your home so that you can contact us whenever you need us.

**Longford Pharmacy**  
**19 Marlborough Street, Longford**  
**Ph 6391 1112**