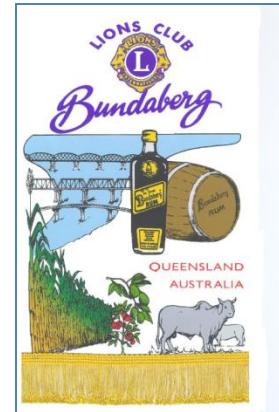


Media Release
19 February 2016

Bundaberg Lions Club Anniversary Dinner celebrates achievement across the ages



On Wednesday 17 February talented Bundaberg High senior student Georgia Davie won her way to the Zone final of the prestigious Lions Youth of the Year Program. At the same dinner the achievements of centenarian Alma Ing, Bundaberg's most recent OAM recipient, were celebrated.

This year's 51st anniversary dinner was a celebration of achievement and community participation, across the generations...according to Club President Jeff McColl. Jeff reported that Alma's life and achievements were a shining example to the six high-calibre senior students of Bundaberg State High also attending the dinner, to compete in the Club final of the Lions Youth of the Year Program.

Alma is a great favourite of Bundaberg Lions Club members, with one of the Club's three founding members present to recall Alma's generosity, as Melbourne Hotel publican and hostess for Club meetings in the early days. Life member, Noel Searle, recalled fondly great times spent at Alma's establishment and her lifetime of support for so many Bundaberg community initiatives.

Alma was thrilled to see the six senior students complete the first part of their public speaking competition, delivering 2 minute responses to impromptu (unseen) questions.

All six students, along with their counterparts across Australia and Papua New Guinea, entered the program to extend their leadership skills. Club Youth of the Year chair and master of ceremonies for the evening, George Martin, detailed how students submit written applications detailing their academic, sporting and cultural achievements, along with details of community event participation. Panels of prominent local citizens across Australia use the applications as a basis for interviewing the candidates before they complete the program with a public speaking event.

George welcomed judges Stacey Tindel, representing the National Australia Bank which has co-sponsored the program for nineteen years, Wayne Bauer and David Batty. He commented on the judges' challenge in trying to fairly identify a single winner from the talented field of senior school leaders - Sarah Andrews, Samantha Bainbridge, Georgia Davie, Vanessa Edwards, Clay Grimes and Abigail Richards. Georgia Davie prevailed, delivering an inspiring prepared speech about the misrepresentation of ethnicity in our Australian media. Georgia will now represent the Bundaberg Lions Club at the Zone Final to be held 12 March at Kepnock State High.

One founding member of the Bundaberg Lions Club, Jim Anderson, was bitterly disappointed at missing this year's Youth of the Year judging and his first anniversary dinner in fifty-one years. Jim was recently admitted to hospital with a serious leg injury. A letter from Jim, conveying his best wishes for the evening and regrets about not being in attendance, was read to attendees. Quick-thinking student, Clay Grimes, took the initiative to marshal his peers to visit Jim in hospital. The students visited Jim after school on Friday 19 Feb, a day which coincided with Jim's

wife Eva's birthday. The Andersons were ecstatic, Eva commenting that the whole occasion had become a celebration of community spirit that involved the young and not-so-young... Jim was unable to attend Youth of the Year but Youth of the Year came to him.

ENDS

(attached images – names: L-R

Image 1. Clay Grimes, Georgia Davie, Alma Ing, Sarah Andrews

Image 2. Georgia Davie, Jeff McColl

Image 3. Eva Anderson, Abi Richards, Clay Grimes, Sarah Andrews, Vanessa Edwards)

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