

Matt Nixon's Charity Golf Day raises BIG funds for GLPCS



Above: (L to R) Deidre Stokes (GLPCS), Garry and Rhonda Nixon, and Margaret Steel (Matt Nixon Golf Day).

Rhonda and Garry Nixon presented a cheque of over \$20,000 to Great Lakes Palliative Care Support's President Deidre Stokes in front of members and special guests at GLPSG's annual meeting, held at Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club on 11 July.

When presenting the cheque, Garry and Rhonda Nixon thanked the local community and their sponsors for the continued support of the Matt Nixon Golf Day. They said the biggest winner is that, "The money raised stays in the town to help important organisations like Great Lakes Palliative Support Group (GLPSG) and Cape Hawke Surf Club." They also announced the Matt Nixon Golf Day will be held next year on the 2nd of May."

Deidre thanked the Nixon family and read out MP David Gillespie's speech from Parliament, from 25th May, 2023.

"Whilst in Parliament this week, I took the opportunity to recognise the organisers of the Matt Nixon Memorial Charity Golf Day for their 22nd event. Garry Nixon and friends established the Charity Golf Day in memory of local police officer and avid sportsman, Matt

Nixon, who tragically passed away from cancer at just 28 years of age. Held at the Forster Golf Club, this event has raised over \$200,000 for the Great Lakes Palliative Care Support and the Cape Hawke Surf Club since 2002. Congratulations all."

Deidre Stokes said, "From 2022 to 2023, we have remained extremely busy with fundraising events, community education and spreading the word that palliative care is much more than just about dying, it's about "living well" until we die."

"We have been able to enhance the services that are offered at one of the most challenging times for the patient, families and carers of this area, as well as outlying areas such as Gloucester, Hawks Nest and Bulahdelah."

"Our services are so important for all those caring for family members at end of life, when nothing else is available. Our service provision does mean patients can stay at home longer or until their death if that is their wish."

"We have been blessed by much community support and been the beneficiary of donations from sporting groups, service clubs, individuals, bereaved families and long-time supporters. We remained indebted to the Nixon family and all their supporters who have contributed to our work in such a big way. Out of your grief you have been a blessing for so many."

Clinical Nurse Consultant and special guest, Trish Lowe, said, "This organisation are trailblazers because they have been a 'caring community' for 35 years, where as other communities are just starting out."

Founder of GLPCS, Elizabeth Fisher, said, "A caring community organisation needs to have structure and a focal point. Everyone is part of a caring community, but an organisation won't be successful without people willing to give their time, which our volunteers do."

Story and photo by Mary Yule.

The safety of Coomba Road



Above: Road Safety Meeting at Coomba Community Hall. Photo supplied.

The Road Safety Meeting at Coomba Community Hall on the 13 July was well attended with a total of 129 people.

Guests included Tanya Thompson - State Member for the Nationals, Claire Pontin - Mayor of Midcoast Council, Adrian Panuccio - General Manager Midcoast Council and Rob Scott - Director Infrastructure & Engineering Services Mid-Coast Council.

The community had provided a list of concerns and questions regarding the problems with Coomba Rd that affect the safety of road users. Coomba Probus member, Steve Martin, delivered the question and answer session which included: -

- The uncut grass, that is often 180cm high, prevents any view along the road, and as many drivers need to move to the centre of the road to avoid road damage, the need to see clearly is paramount. Not only this, but cyclists are hidden, and large wildlife cannot be seen until they are on the road.
- This is exacerbated by the reflectors (which are 50cm tall) that are placed right on the edge of the already narrow road, leaving nowhere for motorists to go when trying to avoid any possible accidents. With the lack of white lines in some places making it even more hazardous.
- The three years of rain has done much damage and while attempts are being made to fix this problem the road is just deteriorating

around the holes, and in places this enables water to flood the road, causing even more damage.

The community wanted to know what has happened to the \$6.6 million dollars provided by Government to go towards road repairs. Council's response was they have 3,643 rural roads within the Mid Coast LGA in a similar state.

Coomba believes that, because this 22km road is the only way in and out of the village it should be prioritised to prevent a disaster whether it be a fatality, or an emergency causing the road to be closed.

There is however money on the table, some \$450,000, which Rob Scott [from Council] said had already been earmarked for Coomba Rd, to help fix some of the problems sometime within the next 12 months.

Prioritising work on rural roads is now aided by extensive road condition data - courtesy of a specially equipped VAN which drives the roads and electronically measures the condition of roads, records CCTV imagery, etc. Funding, Claire Pontin [Mayor] said, will be prioritised with the assistance of the data received from this vehicle. Data received is being analysed now as part of developing this year's Works Program and Roads Strategy.

Source: Minutes taken at the Coomba Probus Road Safety Meeting 13.07.2023.



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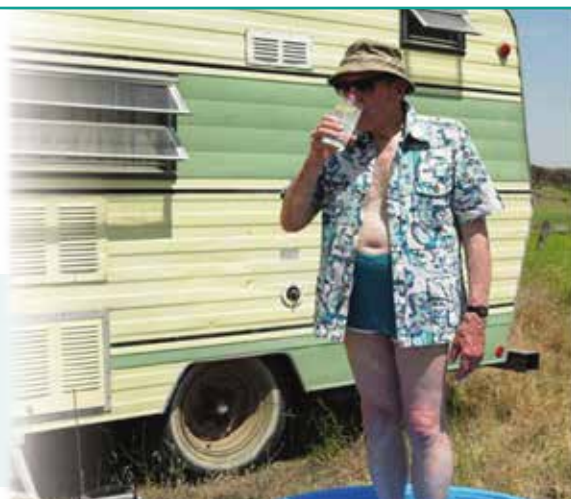


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