

MOTION GETS UNANIMOUS SUPPORT



After listening to the motions for the day and analysing what people were really looking for from the Federal Government, our delegates could see that there needed to be a succinct motion that bought about unity from the groups that are seen as disadvantaged. As indigenous and low socioeconomic groups are recognised as disadvantaged and are funded accordingly, it was felt that rural and remote also had similar educational deficits that needed to be recognised and funded through the same channels. In a very short time frame, discussions were had at morning tea with fellow branch members, Queensland State Council President Andy Pegler and fellow State Councillors giving support to our ideas. Fellow members wrote the motion and it was presented as the final motion for the day and passed unanimously!

Easmie Irons

A FOUNDATION WITH HEART

In the July school holidays, my family was invited to a luncheon at Winchester Downs, East of Clermont. This was a special occasion as it meant we could pay homage to a lovely lady who had generously helped us with the education of three of our five boys. After 10 years of boarding fees and with six years still remaining, this was a godsend.



Beryl Neilsen with Angus, Lachlan, Rebecca, Harry and Richard Burge.

Beryl Neilsen resides at Winchester Downs and has set up a public foundation in memory of her late husband John. This was first established in 2011 and since then has grown to consist of 62 recipients.

The aim of the foundation was to provide assistance to children and youth in regional and rural areas to enable them to achieve the same opportunities as those living in cities.

Assistance is provided by way of scholarship to help with study costs for tertiary, trades, secondary and primary education.

So all the recipients and their families were treated to a delicious luncheon at Beryl's home, Winchester Downs. It was a lovely afternoon. Beryl was given the opportunity to meet new recipients and greet the old ones. It was obvious that the kids all felt a depth of gratitude towards Beryl's generosity and were honoured to meet her. All these children mean the world to Beryl and it is her hope that they will all be successful in their academic endeavors and that they will have a life long association with the foundation. These are all Beryl's children and she won't be forgotten.

As a mother and parent it is difficult to imagine how we can ever repay this generous lady, but to see the way the children react to her and her strong bond with them, I guess its thanks enough.

Beryl Neilsen is a modest lady who has generously donated her time and money towards "creating education opportunities for country children."

Thank you Beryl and those associated with the Winchester Foundation.

Rebecca Burge.



Beryl Neilsen and all her recipients.