
VALE KAREN CHETCUTI

A very special ‘reunion’ was held at the Whorouly Recreation Reserve on Tuesday, 2nd February – Karen Chetcuti’s farewell.

More than 1000 people gathered on the oval, many spilling out of the marquee, to pay their last respects, to laugh, to cry and to remember Karen’s wicked sense of humour, her infectious smile and her no-nonsense, get-things-done attitude.

Tributes were read, covering Karen’s life from a young girl in Melbourne to meeting the man she was going to marry, Tony Chetcuti; from making the surprising decision to move to the country and take over the Whorouly Hotel in 1993 to her 20 years of organising the Rural City of Wangaratta; from her love of her two children, Jack and Kate, to her love of her cows, her farm and her friends.

There was laughter about Karen’s exploits, about her early Madonna days, about her hate of roses, about her famous
fat-food Friday lunches at work, about requiring Barney’s help to ‘fix’ the flat
tyre on her four-wheeler, about almost
electrocuting Jody and about her syringe-
decorated Essendon birthday cake for
Wodsys.

At the end of the service, led by Tony,
Jack and Kate, Karen was walked home to
Jade Valley, followed by hundreds of her
family and friends.

She is Gone – Anonymous
You can shed tears that she is gone
or you can smile because she has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that
she’ll come back
or you can open your eyes and see all
she’s left.

Your heart can be empty because you can’t
see her
or you can be full of the love you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and
live yesterday
or you can be happy for tomorrow
because of yesterday.

You can remember her and only that she’s
gone
or you can cherish her memory and let it
live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be
empty and turn your back
or you can do what she’d want: smile,
open your eyes, love and go on.

Rest in peace Karen Chetcuti

TAKE A BOW WHOROULY
What a wonderful tribute to Karen
Chetcuti, held in Whorouly on Tuesday
2nd Februray, with some 800–1000 people
attending.

The service was very beautiful with all
those who spoke, including our own Jack
Harrington and Lance White, capturing
the true essence and enormous
contribution Karen made in all aspects of
her life.

The walk accompanying Karen home to
her beloved Jade Valley Farm was an
extremely moving experience.

Then it was back to the Whorouly
Recreation Reserve for refreshments, with
so many people contributing to the supply
of food and smooth running of the day.

We are not going to name names (for fear
of missing someone) but we wish to
sincerely thank everyone for their
contribution.

Thanks to all those who:

- Mowed, pressure washed concrete
  and had the outside areas looking
  beautiful;
- Cleaned and set up the Function
  Centre and Community Hub;
- Supplied cakes and slices –
  contributions from Whorouly
  Primary School, Milawa Primary
  School and Whorouly community
  members were enormous;
- Supplied and prepared fillings for
  the sandwiches;
- Helped make sandwiches, cut fruit
  and prepare slices and cakes;
- Helped make 2000 plus sausage
  rolls;
- Supplied flowers;
- Manned the kitchen and cleared
  the marquee to allow others to
  attend the service and walk;
- Served and handed around platter
  after platter of food;
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- Manned the bar;
- Collected, washed and dried dishes all day long;
- Cleaned the function centre and washed and ironed tablecloths and tea towels.

So many compliments were received on the day and Whorouly again showed its wonderful community spirit and why Karen was part of it.

Our thanks go to members of the Myrtleford, Tallangatta and Wangaratta SES Units who assisted with parking management, and also for forming the guard of honour in support of the Whorouly community and Karen’s family.

Also so many local businesses showed their generosity with donations for the day including water, bread, fillings for sandwiches, ice, wine, beer, cheese, fruit, vegetables, orange juice, coffee, etc.

Our thanks go to:
- Burgan Brothers Wangaratta
- Coles Myrtleford
- Office Works Wangaratta
- Nu Fruit Wangaratta
- Wood Park Wines
- Coles Wangaratta
- Woolworths Wangaratta
- Steve and Linda’s IGA
- Bynon’s Ice
- Aldi Wangaratta
- Fletchers Cleaning Supplies
- S&M La Spina Farm Produce
- Milawa Cheese factory
- REMEL Whorouly
- Whorouly Hotel

We are so grateful to everyone who contributed, and was part of Karen’s life and farewell.

Thank you to everyone.

Ruth Costenaro
Secretary
On behalf of Whorouly Memorial Park Committee

2016 WHOROULY AUSTRALIA DAY

Some 120 residents (including children) celebrated Australia Day in Whorouly with an egg-and-bacon roll breakfast, juice, watermelon, tea, coffee and scones.

We thank the boys who manned the barbecues – Lawrie, Jack, Col and John.

Special thanks to Pam, Jenny, Lee and Jo and all others who helped out in the kitchen.

President of the Rec Reserve Committee, Jack Harrington welcomed everyone, especially new families to Whorouly, and Administrator Irene Grant from the Rural City of Wangaratta.

A tribute was paid to Karen Chetcuti who had joined the Whorouly Memorial Park Committee in 2007, taking over the role of treasurer – a position she held along with that of minute secretary, up until her recent tragic death.

Karen was remembered for her invaluable liaising with council, producing detailed financial reports for meetings, enthusiastically attending working bees and even taking an annual leave day off work to help with rec reserve fundraising – always with that infectious smile!

Sue Bromilow was then invited to raise the flag (we thank John for his help in setting up the flag).

Words to the National Anthem and the Affirmation for Australia Day were handed out and ‘Advance Australia Fair’
was sung with gusto! Our thanks to Tom for supplying the sound system.

All then moved inside and Irene Grant gave the Australia Day address. She explained what the day meant to her and then gave a roundup of what had taken place in Whorouly during 2015.

The Whorouly Community Local Achiever 2016 Australia Day Award was then presented to Rajanna Costenaro.

Rajanna, who has lived almost all her life in Whorouly, has been secretary of the Whorouly Football Netball Club for some 20 years – and continues in this position today. She received Life Membership of the club in 2004.

Not only during the football season, but almost all year long, Rajanna attends to football club administration work. She has seen this work go from hand-written forms to the majority now being reported on computer.

Rajanna was one who initiated and organizes the Breast Cancer Network Awareness ‘Pink Footy Netball Day’. This event has been running for a number of years in Whorouly, raising much needed funds for this worthy cause.

Rajanna joined the committee of the Whorouly Memorial Park in 1996 and has been on this committee ever since – some 20 years.

She was a member of the steering committee during the very busy time of planning and construction of the Whorouly Community Recreation & Function Centre.

Rajanna (and her mother Libera) are on the St Patrick’s Catholic Church flowers and cleaning roster and Rajanna delivers the monthly church bulletins from Myrtleford.

One of Rajanna’s interests is gardening and she and Libera produced a beautiful wreath that was laid on behalf of the Rec Reserve Committee on the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day in 2015.

Rajanna regularly helps her brother Ed, sister-in-law Ruth and family in their catering business, and has always keenly supported her nephew and two nieces in all aspects of their lives.

Rajanna is dedicated to her family and has worked tirelessly for both the Whorouly Football Netball Club and the Whorouly Memorial Park Committee, willingly giving of her time and expertise.

Whorouly is very fortunate to have Rajanna as part of the community.

Rajanna responded by saying it was an honour to receive this award, particularly when she looked back on previous recipients. She encouraged the young members of the community to volunteer as you not only helped the community but also got so much back. Rajanna thanked all her family, and dedicated the award in honour of Karen Chetcuti.

Irene then presented the Junior Whorouly Australia Day 2016 Awards to Amber Newton and Jake Morey.

Both Jake and Amber thanked their respective families, Pauline McPherson and all teachers at Whorouly Primary School and hoped that their next six years of schooling were as enjoyable as their time at Whorouly.

Irene ended by thanking Sue Bromilow, Ruth Costenaro, Pauline McPherson and all who had assisted in organizing the Australia Day celebrations in Whorouly.

Jack thanked Irene for attending and presented her with a hamper of local produce – thanks to Mary and Sam La Spina, and the 2 Cooks Café

Jack then closed the ‘official’ part of celebrations thanking Tom White for supplying the outside sound system, Jayne
Graham for running the face painting activities, Tina Ivone from CWA for the children’s colouring activities and Darren Kneebone for organizing the gumboot throwing.

Thanks also to all who helped with the clean-up – Jenny, Jo, Lee, Pam, Ed, Ruth and Sue.

An enjoyable day was had by all!

TOP: Until raised as part of the Australia Day proceedings, the flag flew at half-mast to honour Karen Chetcuti.

TOP LEFT: Cooper Roman gives gumboot throwing a go.

ABOVE: Local Australia Day Award recipients Amber Newton, Rajanna Costenaro and Jake Morey.

LEFT: Lily Boyer, Taleah Elkington and Violet Harrison show off their Australia Day artwork.
DORIS CELEBRATES 90 YEARS
Whorouly Senior Citizens started the year with a 90th birthday party for Mrs Doris Boyd (pictured above).
Doris enjoyed a delicious lunch with invited friends and family.
Whorouly Senior Citizens members meet for lunch every second and fourth Tuesday. Visitors and new members warmly welcomed.

WHOROULY INNER WHEEL
Our sewing day was very busy and took a while to get organised, with ladies doing various jobs from cutting out to ironing, sewing and unpicking!
Of course I cannot forget the tea lady, she also did a great job keeping us all nourished.
We managed to complete 50 sanitary shields and 90 liners. We also had other items, being cottons, material and girls’ cotton pants, donated on the day, coming from very generous members of the community.
Barb Broz was extremely chuffed about our efforts. All items will be sent to East Timor this June.
Our next get together is at Jim and Sherren’s home at 3267 Snow Rd, Whorouly, on Thursday, 18th February commencing at 6.30pm.
All lady members of the community are invited to bring a plate to share for tea, their bikinis, and a bottle of wine or two. This is a relaxed evening, with no meeting, just maybe a swim and a game of table tennis, among friends.
For further information contact Sherren on 0437 668 696.

GROUP FITNESS IS BACK
After a short break, group fitness has started up once again. It is now Mondays from 9.15am at the Whorouly Recreation Reserve.
Our personal trainer, Tara Cobbe, delivers a program to suit all ages and fitness levels. The cost is $10 per session.
Everyone is welcome and we are looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible!
For more information feel free to drop in or call Jo Ivone on 0438 550 982.

WHOROULY PLAYGROUP
Whorouly Playgroup will run every second Friday (February’s dates are the 5th and the 19th).
This term we will be operating out of the Whorouly kinder, which will be a lovely temporary home (we will endeavour to return to the school, but due to timetabling clashes this is not possible this term.)
Playgroup starts at 9.30am with a program of free play, group song and story time, art
and craft, morning tea for the kids and a cuppa for the parents.

This term we are also working in conjunction with the Wangaratta Library and sharing some of their brilliant resources!

Playgroup is open to children of all ages and parents, grandparents and friends are all welcome! We look forward to seeing you at playgroup!

For more information please contact Jo Ivone on 0438 550 982.

Our first meeting for the year was held on February 1st with 18 in attendance. A big welcome to our new members.

Some of the items discussed were:

- Our annual March Community Morning Tea to be held Wednesday 23rd. (Please put the date in your diary.)
- Wangaratta Fun Run 28th February. If you’d like to join us in the 5km walk contact Tina on 0417 105 421.
- North East Region CWA AGM and Conference to be hosted by Whorouly CWA, 20th February.

Did you know that the CWA is the largest women’s organisation in Australia and is currently experiencing a great resurgence, particularly here in Victoria?

CWA attracts a diverse range of women of all ages, in both the city and country, who join to enjoy friendship and community involvement. A very relevant grass roots organisation supporting the community both locally and further afield.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 7th March, from 2.30pm at the Whorouly Library Hall.

CWA CRAFT: Local ‘children’, Owen, John and Molly Pethybridge, enjoying the CWA’s craft activities at Whorouly’s Australia Day event

WHOROULY CWA NEWS

The 2015 year finished with Christmas lunch at REMEL, enjoyed by CWA members and friends.

A collection was taken up resulting in a $100 donation to Oxfam.

January 2016 saw a social catch-up at the 2 Cooks Cafe, a children’s activity at Whorouly’s Australia Day event and our regular craft afternoon.

WELCOME JACK STIRLING

Jack Bryan Stirling was born on 5th January at 6.07am weighing 6lb 14oz. He is the first child of John Stirling (Stirlo) and Tiff Burdack of Tarrawingee.
FLOOD SAFE DEMONSTRATION

A flood safe demonstration, activity and fundraising day will be held at the Whorouly Primary School in Church St on Sunday, 28th February from 10am to 2pm.

The day includes a barbecue lunch, hands-on activities, workshops and displays, Paddy the Platypus and much more.

All proceeds raised for the day will go back into the Whorouly community for flood-safe projects. The aim of the day is to prepare the Whorouly community to fight flood disasters head on.

For more information email carina.heppell@ses.members.vic.gov.au

SES SUPPORT

Wangaratta State Emergency Service unit and members dropped some flowers and a card for the Whorouly community into the Whorouly Hotel recently.

The card read: To the Whorouly Community, just some short words to let you know that we are thinking of you with sympathy and the hope that time will bring comfort to your heart.

WEDDING – JEN & WOODSY

Yes, Jen and Woodsy finally tied the knot in a small ceremony at the Melbourne Registry Office on Sunday, 17th January.

This was followed by a wonderful ‘reception’ in the Whorouly Hotel beer garden on Sunday, 24th January with many family and friends.

The unusual format was due, in part, to the fact that according to Woodsy’s full birth certificate, which we needed for the official ceremony and so applied for late last year, stated that he was ‘FEMALE’.

As same sex marriages are still illegal (although Woodsy has been married before?), we could not get married until it was amended and the process took about eight weeks. In the meantime, we got permission to marry at the registry office.

The good news is Woodsy is now officially a ‘MALE’ again!

Thanks to all our family and friends for a truly wonderful celebration, your kind wishes and gifts, and just being there to support us.

BROKEN HEARTS MARCH

A fundraising committee called Broken Hearts has been formed by former Blackburn South High School friends of Karen Chetcuti.

As well as raising money for Karen’s children, they have organised a march in Melbourne on Sunday, 21st February to push for changes to the justice system.

Buses donated by Alpine Spirit Myrtleford will pick up in Whorouly, Milawa and Wangaratta around 5.30am on the day.

For more information, contact Ruth Costenaro on 0400 622 386.

WHOROULY NEWSLETTER

Please submit items of interest by the first of each month. To submit articles (which may be edited due to space restrictions), please contact Sue Bromilow (5727 1241) or Jennifer Garrett (5727 1424 or email jengarrett@bigpond.com). Note, all items are submitted and the organisers take no responsibility for the accuracy of statements or information.

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