

Queensland tourism success

By Angela Norval

With tourism continuing to be one of the strong growth points of the state, it was only fitting that on Friday 28 August, the Queensland Tourism Industry Council celebrated tourism taking over the green at Queensland Parliament House.

QTIC chief executive officer Natassia Wheeler said QTIC members came together for Tourism in the House, with the chance to meet directly with senior government leaders and the decision makers shaping Queensland's future.

"These conversations matter," she said.

"They give our members the opportunity to share what's happening in their businesses and regions, and help us make sure the realities facing tourism operators are heard by the people making decisions."

The Bundaberg region was well represented with Burnett MP Stephen Bennett, new Bundaberg Tourism chief executive officer Duncan Littler, Bundaberg Tourism's Katherine Reid and Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort custodian and managing director Peter Gash present on the night.

Burnett MP Stephen Bennett said the Tourism in the House event was a great opportunity to highlight the strength of Queensland's tourism industry and the contribution it makes to regional communities.

"Tourism is a major part of our region's economy, supporting local jobs, businesses and communities," he said.

"It was great to see our local tourism industry represented at Parliament House and to have the opportunity to connect with operators and industry leaders from across Queensland."

"Events like Tourism in the House are a positive reminder of the enormous potential we have



Tourism in the House at Queensland Parliament House saw a wonderful representation of tourism in the Bundaberg region. (Supplied)

in regional Queensland and the opportunities ahead through the Crisafulli Government's record \$1 billion investment in tourism.

"We have some world-class tourism experiences on our doorstep, from the Southern Great

Barrier Reef and Lady Elliot Island to our local food, natural attractions and unique regional experiences."

Bundaberg Tourism chief executive officer Duncan Littler welcomed the opportunity to at-

tend an event like this since taking on the role on Monday 17 August/

"Tourism in the House highlighted just how important tourism is to the economic and social fabric of Queensland," he said.

"For Bundaberg, it was an opportunity to share our story, strengthen connections with key decision-makers, and ensure regional voices are part of the conversation."

"I left the event optimistic about the future and inspired by the collective commitment across industry and government to grow tourism in a way that benefits local businesses, creates jobs and delivers lasting value for our communities."

Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort custodian and managing director Peter Gash said the Tourism in the House event was a fantastic opportunity to showcase just how much the Bundaberg region has to offer and the important role tourism plays in our community.

"It was particularly encouraging to see tourism operators, industry leaders and government coming together with a shared passion for the region and its future," he said.

"Events like this help build stronger connections and create new opportunities for collaboration, which ultimately benefits local businesses and the wider community."

"Most importantly, it reinforces what we already know, that Bundaberg is a special part of Queensland, and there is a real sense of optimism about what we can achieve together."

"A special thanks must go to Burnett MP Stephen Bennett, for taking the time to give Duncan Littler, Katherine Reid-Darling, myself and Millie Dye from Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort a personal guided tour of the amazing 1860s built Parliament House, something everyone should get the chance to do."

Flanno fundraiser helps farmers

By Matt Gees

An idea for a "good turn" has lead to a fundraising afternoon tea full of flannelette.

The Bundaberg Trefoil Guild are a group of former Girl Guides who have found a way to re-ignite their passion for community service and helping other people later in life.

Across Queensland their organisation has taken on the charity Farm Angels for two years to find ways of doing a good turn - a guiding term for helping out with no expectation for reward or recognition.

Jan Bryde from the Bundaberg Guild explains that the work of Farm Angels and in particular the "Flanno for a Farmer" sparked an interest for their entire organisation across the state.

"Many of our Queensland members are from rural or regional areas or have spent much of their youth in rural communities" Mrs Bryde explained.

"There were about half a dozen charities put forward to our members for the 2026/27 Good Turn term and we all kept coming back to the way in which Farm Angels personalised the help that was given" she said.

"It wasn't just money, it was grocery vouchers from local stores, handmade cards, personalised handwritten messages to farmers that sent a message that they were not alone and that people outside of their community were grateful for the

food they produced and the long hours put in to do so."

Guild Secretary Lyn McLean said they started organising a small "smoko" for their members and friends, but it kept growing as more people found out about the cause and wanted to do their part.

"We asked everyone to wear a flanno, had live music, bush poets, a tombola, some raffles and lucky door prizes and just wanted to have some fun while raising money for a good cause. There were sandwiches, scones and tables decorated with Australian Natives. Word got out and we had to cap the numbers as more and more people wanted to be there and join in our Flanno for a Farmer event. We even had to turn people away."

Mrs McLean said they were especially keen to get some of the handmade cards written in ready to send to farmers.

"When Farm Angels send out a grocery hamper or some gift cards, it's always accompanied by a little handmade card that an actual person has written a message in to thank the farmers for what they do. A number of our ladies are quite crafty and have made some of these cards and so we distributed them at the event for guests to write in and thank a farmer for never giving up" she said.

Overall, the Bundaberg Trefoil Guild raised \$1 100 for Farm Angels.

CEO of Farm Angels, Jason Law, was grateful



Bundaberg Trefoil Guild members at the Flanno for a Farmer fundraiser. Jan Bryde, Bronwyn Prentice, Margaret Gees, Beryl Plath, Marlene Rayner, Katrina Rayner, Joanna Desgrand (seated), Jan Hingston and Lyn Maclean. (supplied)

for the money the Trefoil Guild raised.

"Farming families are facing enormous challenges right now, and many are carrying those burdens quietly. Throwing on a flanno is a simple way to show they're not alone, but it's the donations behind it that allow us to provide practical

support when families need it most," Mr Law said

Farm Angels provides tailored support to farming families across Australia, helping them stay on the land through financial assistance, food and essential supplies, care packages and mental health and wellbeing support during times of crisis.

THIS WEEK'S SUPER SPECIALS

SMIRNOFF VODKA, DEWAR'S SCOTCH, BUNDABERG RUM, BENCHMARK BOURBON, GORDONS GIN



700 ML SPIRITS

\$45.⁹⁹

GREAT NORTHERN ORIGINAL



30 PACK CANS

\$64.⁹⁹ CTN

WOODSTOCK & COLA 6% 10 -PACK, HARD RATED 4.5% 10-PACK RANGE



\$41.⁹⁹ EA

TOOHEY'S EXTRA DRY



24 PACK STUBBIES

\$48.⁹⁹



East End Hotel

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