

## Christmas BBQ Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011

There was an overwhelming response for this event with 62 members and friends responding to our annual Christmas BBQ at the Willows Tavern; the members didn't even realize the extra treat they were in for – not the 'jolly fat fellow in a red and white suit' either, but the delight of the 'Lectic Larrikans' band. Our member Glenn Noble had organized this with Lynndon and David, all playing guitars. We even had a vocalist – another member, Shelagh McLoughlin – surprises all round.

Band members: – David, Glenn and Lynndon with Shelagh



We won't mention the 'self-invited rig-in'; big Dave Lee who took the microphone late in the evening to test his vocal cords – much to the confusion of Lynndon who was standing beside him endeavouring to stay in tune.

It is amazing what talent we have amongst our members and this usually surfaces well into the night when the vocal cords have been lubricated and semi-anaesthetised!

As people arrived and started to socialize and enjoy an odd drink or three, Dicky and Dave were right on task, complete with Ulysses BBQ aprons, cooking scores of burgers, snags, steak and onions to feed the jovial gathering. There was an abundance of meat and salads and our chefs had everyone satisfied within a short time – a big thanks to Dicky and Dave for doing a great job.

We were hoping to set the band up in the Beer Garden but alas, late in the afternoon, the 28° temperature induced a thunderstorm, forcing the boys to set up safely indoors.

Lois and Shelagh started the trend by dancing along to the band on the dance floor, followed closely by Ric and Leeanne; as the evening, progressed the majority of those present were thoroughly enjoying some great old numbers and soon filled the floor. Even Lil was bopping and playing her air guitar and honky-tonk piano on the table seated in her chair! Pity about the dicky old knees that prohibited her from dancing. Mind you, I would imagine there were some groans, creeping and limping around the following morning with joints that hadn't had a work-out for many decades. There was a frequent exit from the floor to the slightly cooler air outside and the replenishment of liquid refreshments.

A raffle was conducted during the evening – our sponsors and supporters were most generous with their donation of gifts for the raffle. Our appreciation goes to the following businesses that gave items for the raffle and continue to provide our members with discounts and membership benefits:

Horizon Motorcycles,  
Hobart BMW Autohaus,  
Shannons,  
Bikeworks,  
Motorworks Motorcycles,  
Totally Workwear,  
Country Leather and  
Express Shoe Repairs Eastlands.

As well, many members also donated some wonderful items to raffle – our appreciation goes to everyone. The success of our raffle is equally dependent on people selflessly buying raffle tickets – thanks to the generosity of all those present we raised \$206.00 which concludes our fundraising for 2011 for UCARF, the Ulysses Club Arthritis Research Foundation. With ride donations throughout the year, a cheque for the amount of \$721.65 was forwarded to the UCARF from our Hobart Branch. Well done to all who have given over the year.

We greatly appreciate continued support from Craig Sweeney of the Willows Tavern. Most people would be unaware of his generosity – rooms are always provided free for all meetings, first aid etc. as well as the urn with tea and coffee facilities. Priority is given for our Calendar events held during the year and bottles of wine are gifted for special events. Craig provided tokens for our band members on the evening as a gesture of his appreciation.

Thank you Craig and staff.

The band played on tirelessly until well after 10pm – they just couldn't get the oldies to stop! By the end of the evening, Lynndon barely had a voice and Glenn had strummed his thumb raw! As for David, he just quietly soldiered on having beaten off two days of poor health.

This entertainment was a gold lining for a wonderful evening and we're already lobbying the boys to join us next year. Choccy frogs maybe the sweetener to entice them!