



DUSK ON THE DECK

By Lea Parkes

The Zonta Club of Blackall Range hosted its fifth Dusk on the Deck at the Maleny Community Centre last Sunday night. The annual event celebrates International Women's Day, Zonta International Rose Day and the announcement of the annual Zonta Woman of Achievement award. Zonta's president Judith Ross-Smith thanked the group of invited guests, who represented a wide cross section of Maleny's community groups and service clubs, and explained that the person who would be receiving the award had no idea that was why they were there.

Judging by the look of total shock on Lynda Burgess's face when the announcement was made, it was pretty obvious that she had been kept in the dark until that moment.

However, for anyone who knows the born-and-bred Maleny local it isn't surprising that her work in the local community would be recognised in this way.

Chair of the organising committee Ann Koenig listed just a few of the many clubs and organisations that Lynda is currently involved in, including president of the Witta Recreation Club, Maleny Senior Citizens and the Show Society, and described her as a silent, or maybe a quiet, achiever.

While the announcement was being made, I could hear people around me listing off plenty of other groups and events they were aware of that Lynda was involved in, including the Hospital Auxiliary and one of the organisers of Muscle on the Mountain.

Lynda appeared humbled by the award and explained that when you are born and bred in a town that it gets into your heart and you want to be able to contribute back to the community.

GC&M News will catch up with Lynda in the coming weeks to find out just how many community groups she has been involved with in Maleny over the years, and why she loves giving back to the community.

Three of the four previous recipients of the award - Pam Marsden, Norma McLeod and Pat Habner - were also there to share in the importance of the event.

The Zonta members see the Dusk on the Deck event as a way of paying back for the local support they receive.

They were also keen to acknowledge the local businesses that sponsored the evening - Lember and Williams Lawyers, Brandt and Bernhardt Real Estate, Maleny Physiotherapy and Judi Coey Optometrist.

(photo - Andrew Powell MP celebrates International Women's Day with Maleny Rotary president Sherryl Gregory, Quota Maleny president Val Franks and Zonta Club of Blackall Range president Judith Ross-Smith)

Zonta Club of the Blackall Range Sunshine Coast Hinterland

