

## **ROTARY CLUB of LISMORE WEST Inc.**

### **History of the Club's "Wee Barbie" Catering Unit (Van)**

In the 1993 – 94 Rotary Year, President Bruce King instigated the building of a specially designed trailer to house barbeque cooking plates & equipment, tables, ice box, covers and signs, to overcome the waste of time and effort of Club members in borrowing, collecting, cleaning and returning barbeques. Consequently, construction of this specially designed trailer commenced in the first half of 1994. The construction team consisted of: PP Allan Belyea; President Bruce King; PP Ray Seiffert; Rtn. Max Sidney; PP Bruce Young and Rtn. Elio Zambelli. Elio donated the wheels, axles and springs and the use of his workshop and welder at his business in South Lismore, to make the frame. Max organized the folding of the sides of the trailer at Sidney & Hacking Plumbers workshop in South Lismore. Warren Harding designed and made the tables. Throughout the remainder of 1994 and the early months of 1995, the Barbeque trailer was fitted out and then registered with the Registration No. H52405. The completed Barbeque trailer was presented to Club members at one of their Thursday night Rotary Meetings at the Lismore Workers' Heights' Bowling Club, in early May 1995. On the suggestion of PP Bruce Young, the Club decided to name it our "Wee Barbie". Individual Club members donated stock items for the "Wee Barbie" to be used in the preparation, cooking and serving of barbeque meals such as, knives, spatulas, tongs, dishes, stainless steel trays, jugs, teapot, buckets, etc. The Club's new "Wee Barbie" Catering Unit trailer was christened on Thursday 25 May, 1995 when it was used to cater for former Club member, Peter Fletcher's Northern Rivers Rural Buying Services Traders' Day, Casino Street, South Lismore. This was immediately followed by taking it for a Rotary family picnic day at Natural Arch in the mountains of south-east Queensland, attended by Club members and family, totalling fifty. Every year since, the Club has continued to cater for this annual Rural Buying Service Traders' Day. Since its construction, the Club's "Wee Barbie" Catering Unit trailer has been used on many occasions each year for the Club's Community Service projects and has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Club to help fund its extensive Rotary programs. Since its construction, the "Wee Barbie" Catering Unit trailer has been housed in a shed on PP Bruce Young's farm at Loftville. In the May, 2004, after ten years of extensive use, the time arrived for the "Wee Barbie" Catering Unit trailer to have a "make over". Consequently a team of Club members led by Rtn. Elio Zambelli and assisted by Rtn. Hugh Baker, PP Allan Belyea, PP Ray Seiffert, Rtn. Max Sidney and PP Bruce Young, stripped the "Wee Barbie" down, sanded it and re-painted it. In 2006 – 2007, Rtn. Elio Zambelli and Rtn. Cec Denny, designed and had manufactured, a large, fitted tarpaulin for our "Wee Barbie" Catering Unit trailer. Our "Wee Barbie" has been used many times each year since its construction for our catering of the Lismore Helicopter 4 WD – Caravan Show, Rural Buying Service Traders' Day & Farmers' Night; the Darrel Chapman Fun Run; Club's Charity Golf Day; Club vocational nights & social days as well as other community service activities when requested. Over the past sixteen years the "Wee Barbie" has raised over \$420 000 for our Club's Rotary programs locally, nationally and internationally.

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