

## **Down Under Reunion South Australia 2011**

The venue for the three days was the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron West Beach.

The Squadron celebrated 50 years last year.

This proved to be an excellent location with the Functions Manager Barry Pollard determined to make our stay memorable.

Friday evening we settled in after the registration at 5.30 of 89 people.

Upstairs in the Anchorage Room we enjoyed a buffet style meal finishing off the meal with a cake stand for each of the nine tables of cupcakes (250) topped with icing and a chocolate anchor, all made by Jill Surfied. Jill doesn't want to see another cupcake for a wee while!

After dining we were entertained by Pipe Major Ian Small, a very talented piper who after his presentation was kind enough to answer questions about his playing and to explain about the pipes. One certain lady did attempt to look up his kilt. Brian Toogood kindly arranged for Ian to play for us and it was certainly a highlight of the evening. This was followed by raffles, jokes, background music by Winston Kay and a relaxed social evening. Plus a glorious sunset.

Saturday morning we were picked up by two coaches from Kanga Coach Tours, who proved to be an excellent company. We had morning tea at Mount Lofty, a stroll around Hahndorf and a lovely trip back to West Beach via Stirling and Bridgewater, the smaller of the coaches having an exciting journey around Devil's Elbow. We arrived back at West Beach just after 2.p.m.

There was a rest (for some) then back at 6.p.m. for the formal occasion of the weekend. This was held downstairs at the Squadron in the Barcoo Room. A splendid three course meal was served. Both Friday and Saturday meals were arranged by Lyn of Homestead Caterers who did a superb job with her very professional staff. After dinner our special cabaret was Winston Kay, with his talented group playing through the evening for dancing. We had a lot of raffle prizes to get through with an auction as well. At the end of the evening Tony Iles presented each Vindi Boy with a lighthouse candle and Brian Toogood presented each member with a small box which held the Golden Rivet!

Sunday morning our Time for Reflection service was taken by Winston Kay, we then had a BBQ organized by our Functions Manager Barry Pollard. Photos were then taken with the event wrapping up at around 2.30.p.m. Barry did mention that we were a very well behaved likeable lot and he would be happy to have us any time, he even said he would get the boats out for us next time!

Thank you to all of you who travelled far and wide to make this reunion so special. Friendships made many reunions ago are stronger than ever today. Here's to next year – See you in Queensland.