

# TOTTS TATTLER

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**2007 AGM REPORT 8TH APRIL 2008**

Let me firstly thank my support officers, John Gilhome as Secretary and Chief Executive officer, Owen Jones Treasurer and Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee, and Trevor England as a committee member with experience in dealing with Government Reports and grant writing. We have also been blessed with our volunteer drivers, who deserve a very big thank you goes to Wally Watkins, Kevin Dean, Gordon Thomas and Leslie Northey. In addition to them we also have in training 4 office workers Patrick Holmes, Vicky Van Ruth, Lynette Kanua, and Allan Wynne. On top of that we have drivers in training Doug Walsh, Richard Wheway, Vicky Dunmore, Margaret Knight, Jeanette Hawes, Laurelle Plate, and Wayne McMartin who have all worked to help make TOTTS INC grow and I thank them for their contribution and support of the Department of Industrial Relations.

It was with regret that we lost both Marie-Claude Brown and Lester Hardwick from the committee They had other initiatives to follow and supported us through a development stage.

Management has been working on our Business Plan , available on our Web Page, which was supported by Thuringowa City Council and in the course of the year we have developed a Web Page on the internet as part of our promotion. This is being continually updated as we produce more photographs and important Policy. Our Web Page is [www.nqcommtransport.org.au](http://www.nqcommtransport.org.au) and those who have computers connected to the internet are invited to hit on it to see where we were and where we are going. If you do not have a computer Council Libraries have computers available.

The financial year has been a busy one for development and operations and we now have 417 members at the end of February 2008 and our 14 seater bus has been added to by a car donated by Audrey Gage. However during the heavy rains in early 2008 we lost the car and we replaced it with 2 others. We continue to have a monthly barbeque which is attended by 50 to 70 members and monthly trips out into the region. Last year we had trips to Charters Towers, Ingham and Ingham Italian Festival, Burdekin dam, Bowen more than once to see the making of a film with Nichole Kidman featured in it. We also did a trip around the 2 cities. This year we are trialling a bush picnic and a 3day trip to gauge reaction from our members.

We were successful with a number of grants for the year which enabled us to install new office equipment. We thank the Gambling Benefits Fund for this grant. In addition we received a grant of \$20,000 from the Paul Newman Foundation and we have earmarked a portion of this to increase our fleet to include a wheel chair vehicle.

Our Business Plan enabled us to register a Business Name for the organisation, which allows us to be better recognized with NQ COMMUNITY TRANSPORT as our trading name, while TOTTS INC remains as our legal name.

TOTTS TATTLER continues to be our main newsletter to our members and management tries to make this a monthly issue if there is something to tell our members.

In the future I believe that our Allied Services responsibility, i.e. taking people to hospital, shops, doctors etc will be best serviced by a zonal system where we divide the city into zones and attend to each zone on a specific day. This means that people who live in that zone on a specific day make all their appointments on that day. This means we would save transport and cost by picking up a greater number of members per trip and allow us to keep our costs at reasonable levels. We are not at that point yet but as our demand continues to increase the system will be inevitable.

Our finances are now displayed on MYOB plus 17 and are in good order as per the audited Financial report. However our endeavours to have QAS and Townsville Hospital as partners have not been successful due to changes in their staff at high level at both Government Organisations. Each time this happens and it is frequent we have to negotiate all over again Both organisations recognize a problem in moving patients both locally and from the country and we are in a position to help at a reasonable fee but we are dealing with Governments officers and that takes time.

What are we planning for the future? We have agreed that we should join with others in the city to enable Brisbane based Community Transport Queensland to expand to enable better control over community transport and gaining finance to support valuable work carried out by community bus transporters. We will continue to increase membership numbers, have monthly barbeques and more frequent trips so that we complement not only supplying transport for our socially isolated seniors but also provide a social environment for them where they can come together socially. We also want our members to advise management on how to improve the organisation and we look forward to having any member on our management team who feel they can assist.

## PLANNED TRIPS

### TRIP 4.

On the 2nd June our day trip is to Hervey Range where we have lunch and join with Kookaburra Tours for a visit along the old Greenvale rail line and tunnels . The cost of this trip is \$60 and has proved very popular during previous trips to the same venue.

### TRIP 5.

Our day trip on the 14th July is to Bowen, where previous visits coincided with the making of a film with Nicole Kidman, will include the lookout with views of Bowen and out to sea. Following this we look at the murals and beaches around the town. Lunch will be taken at a popular hotel. On the return journey make a detour to Abbot Point where coal is being loaded overseas. The coal handling plant is being expanded to take coal from coal fields west of Mackay once the rail connection is made to this area. This port will then supplement the Hay Point facility. The cost of this trip is \$70.

### TRIP 6

On the 4th August the day trip is to Wallaman Falls in the Girringun National Park west of Ingham. This will be a picnic lunch supplied and prepared by its members. It will be advisable to take collapsible chairs to assist available park seats and tables. Wallaman falls is the highest, permanent, single drop waterfall in Australia, and part of the wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The area is home to endangered cassowaries and musky rat-kangaroos. The cost of this trip is \$60.

### TRIP 7

This trip is under development but will involve a visit to the Burdekin Water Festival and involve an afternoon and early night before returning to Townsville.

## BARBEQUES

Our very popular barbeque lunches continue on a monthly program and as others also use the venue on weekends we are seldom ever able to meet on a weekend.

Barbeques are scheduled as follows:

Saturday April 12 at 12 Noon same venue.

Monday 26th May at 12 Noon same venue.

Saturday 28th June at 12 Noon same venue.

**NOTE.** If members feel we can help with a visit to their other club they belong to, to talk about what we do, we can present an interesting illustrated talk with pictures along with an opportunity to increase our membership.