LinC celebrates 10 years of service

A SMALL but active voluntary community service group will celebrate a significant milestone of a decade of service to the Manning Valley this weekend.

LinC (Loving in the Name of Christ) first began in Taree as an offshoot of World Vision, eventually amalgamating with other LinC affiliates throughout Australia, with its National Office located in Victoria.

LinC's function is expressed simply in its title and motto: "Volunteers doing extraordinary things."

Volunteers come from many churches in the Manning Valley and its branch in Forster work together to serve people who suddenly find themselves in need of assistance.

Shopping, transporting, visiting, gardening and light housework are some of the services offered freely for short periods of time to meet a need.

LinC volunteers express God's love to members of the community through practical action.

LinC Manning Valley is well respected by many service agencies in the area, who often call upon LinC to fill a gap.

The LinC Referral Centre, located at the rear of the Church of Christ in Victoria Street, is contacted with a request for assistance.

This may be initiated by the client themselves, a relative, a medical officer, an agency or a neighbour.

The client is then assessed and an appropriate volunteer assigned.

If there is no volunteer available, the centre will do its very best to find alternative help.

To mark its 10 years of operation, LinC is now in attendance at a number of functions over the weekend.

This includes a "meet and greet" with the board on Friday; facilitating a training morning for volunteers and interested community members at the Church of Christ Victoria Street on Saturday, beginning at 9.30am; attending the 10 year anniversary dinner at the Parkside Room, Baptist Church, Kolodong, at 6.30pm on Saturday evening; Words of Encouragement: a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday at noon; and being present at the LinC annual general meeting on the Sunday afternoon.

All these functions are open to the public.

If you would like to be part of these celebrations, or wish to know more about LinC, call the LinC Referral Office on 6557 7007.

Regional Newspaper Media Going Strong

An open letter to the Manning Valley community.

There has been a great deal of discussion lately about the death of newspapers and the future of Fairfax Media.

However, what has been left unsaid in the epic debate is how those recent tumultuous changes will affect regional Australia and your local newspaper.

The fact is that we are engaging audiences in a better way, a more substantive way, than we have ever done before.

Online, more than 16,000 individuals access our website at news.morningtimes.com.au ... every month ... via a home or office computer, tablet or mobile phone.

The reality is that we are growing and we are positive about the changes which lay ahead.

We're determined to continue not only informing our community but being a leader in its prosperous future.

Yours Sincerely,

LinC celebrates 10 years of service

Vietnam war remembered

VIETNAM veterans from across the Manning, along with many ex-service personnel, dignitaries, family and friends were in attendance at Taree RSL sub-branch's commemoration of Vietnam Veterans Day.

The solemn service dedicated to all Vietnam veterans who were moved indoors at Club Taree due to the cold and rainy winds.

An excellent commemoration address was given by the Chatham High School year 11 history students Christopher Diesel and Nadeen Bayless who provided their detailed overview of the offensive war in Vietnam, Australia's military commitment to the war, the bravery, sacrifice and determination of the young soldiers and the problem associated with the return home.

In closing they paid special tribute to the five Manning servicemen who were killed in action.

The memorial was flanked by a local RSL sub-branch proudly provided by members of local Army and Air Force Cadet units.

Greater Taree City Council deputy mayor, councillor David West gave an address along with presenting the students with certificates of appreciation for their well researched and excellently presented address.

Coastal group seeks support

The Old Bar Beach Sand Enrichment Group is hoping for community support for its Save the Beach Dinner Dance on Saturday, September 8. The dinner dance is a fundraiser for protection works for the beach which is the state's top coastal erosion hotspot.

To help this volunteer group, who are working very hard to protect Old Bar beach, order your tickets now from Elaine Pearce on 0407 229 545.

The theme of the evening is Titanic. The fun starts at 6pm at the Old Bar Surf Lifesaving Club. A three-course meal is included and an auction of rare memorabilia will also be held during the evening.

The group is also holding a garage sale fundraiser on September 5 next to the Old Bar Squash Courts. Anyone who wants to donate can leave their pre-loved items at 30 Lewis Street, next to Meridian, or phone 6553 3326 to arrange pick-up.

Cameron wins vocational prize

Rob's word with Federal Member for Lyne, Rob Oakeshott

for prospective students. The uni recently announced it will double the number of courses on offer at its Mild North Coast campus, so tomorrow is a great opportunity for school leavers, and others, to have a good look at the campus and what it has to offer. The campus, at 27 Grant Street, Port Macquarie, will host four sessions: from 10 to 11am, 1.30 to 2.30pm and 6 to 8pm. Anyone interested in attending can register online at www.csu.edu.au/ port info or call CSU on 1800 334 733.

Australian of year awards

LOCALS wanting to have their say about who should be the next Australian of the Year have until next week to lodge their nomination. You can nominate online at www.australianoftheyear.gov.au.