

**HARRY'S VIEW . . .**



55 years ago  
May 7, 1954

AYR'S first commercial three-storied building is due to be built soon for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, in Queen Street.

A FAST railway goods service from Brisbane to north Queensland may be introduced in July, according to Mr Duggan, Minister for Transport.

It is hoped that by then, sufficient diesel-electric locomotives will be available for such a service to come into operation with the new time timetable.

PROWLERS – one or more – are causing disturbances at the Ayr District Hospital and nurses and their parents are complaining at the lack of action, they maintain, the officials concerned are taking.

BRANDON will have a bowling club and green, if plans put into motion at a public meeting there last night are brought to fruition.

**Week to recognise work of volunteers**

COMMUNITIES have been called on to use National Volunteer Week from May 11 to 17 to recognise their volunteers.

Shadow Minister for Community Services and Housing and Member for Burdekin, Rosemary Menkens said the week provided an opportunity to thank the wonderful volunteers for all the work they had done for our communities.

"Volunteers are essential to our society and many charities would struggle to survive without them," she said.

"There are 5.4 million volunteers over the age of 18 across the nation and Queensland has one of the highest volunteer participation rates at 38 per cent."

Mrs Menkens said the top reason people volunteered their services was to help their community.

"Many of these volunteers, such as those in Meals on Wheels, are involved in caring for others with special needs," she said.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—**

Dear editor

I refer to the article titled "Crossing gets a green light" (*The Observer* April 23).

What a difference a set of plans that are based on meeting Australia's and Queensland's safety and human rights legislation can make.

The objective throughout this whole process has been to improve safety for all pedestrians crossing Home Hill's Central Business District Eighth Avenue. Nothing more, nothing less.

It has been a long process, but by looking at the latest plans tabled by the Department of Main Roads, it appears we are finally getting there.

I would like to congratulate the Burdekin community for ensuring that new pedestrian infrastructure to be installed in our region meets the needs of all who live and visit our community.

SCOTT STIDSTON  
Ayr

Dear editor,

Please allow me space in your newspaper to inform the young people of the worries of being a mother – the most important person in our life – because if we didn't have one, we wouldn't be here, would we?

A mother is considered to be someone who is always trying to spoil our fun and always trying to make us do things we don't want to do, but mum is the best teacher you will ever have.

Even when you have done bad things and have to be punished in some way, just remember, no matter what, mum always loves you.

When you grow up and have children of your own, you will find that you will need all that knowledge your mother has taught you.

So I ask you, don't mumble and grumble but do all the things she asks you and do them well.

I have three grown-up sons of my own

and I am proud to say their mother taught them well.

They can all take over the household chores, even washing up.

They can also cook a first class meal and when they meet their mother, they always give her a big hug.

I believe this is thanks for all she has done for them.

So you see, it hasn't got to be Mother's Day to give your mother a hug.

My big regret in my life is I did not give my mother a hug and tell her I loved her.

So please, on this Mother's Day, give the best teacher you will ever have, your mother, the biggest hug and kiss on the cheek and say I love you Mum.

Don't have regrets like me which are always with you.

Happy Mother's Day.

Great Grandad  
George Betteridge

**13 - 17'S**  
**DISCO**  
**FRIDAY 8th MAY**  
**DJ CUPCAKE**  
**\$5 entry**  
**7pm - 10-30pm**  
**SHOWGROUNDS HALL, AYR**  
**NO PASSOUTS. Fully Supervised DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE**  
**Drinks & Chips for sale**  
All proceeds from the door will be donated to the Burdekin Chaplaincy Program  
Supported by  
Burdekin Youth Network  
Queensland Government

**Rods put aside as fishermen support two worthy causes**

A GROUP of keen fishermen have put aside their rods to band together and help spread goodwill within the Burdekin community.

Members of the Clare Amateur Anglers took on a few catering roles throughout the year to raise money to support locals in need.

As a result, they found two worthy causes in the Sian Kapeechkin leukaemia appeal and Angel Flight.

Terry Mulley said the group made an easy choice to support John Kapeechkin, himself a supporter of their own fishing club, in his continued effort to raise money for leukaemia.

They also discovered how the work of Angel Flight has helped local residents like Marj Johnson, who was required to relocate to Brisbane for over two years while she waited for a liver transplant.

After moving to Brisbane in January, 2005, she eventually received her lifesaving transplant in April, 2007, but not without undergoing a long and emotional journey away from her family with no idea when her transplant might come.

Although most are aware of Angel Flight's role in flying patients in need of medical treatment, they were actually



Local givers and receivers (from left) Terry Mulley, Marj Johnson and John Kapeechkin.

able to help Ms Johnson through the emotional difficulties of the long wait by flying her two young children to her.

"Angel Flight flew both my children down to see me twice so through them and with help from family, I was able to see the kids most school holidays," Ms Johnson said.

"It was really good. I had no idea it [as a service for families] existed. I only thought it was if you lived in outlying areas and if you needed medical treatment.

"It's really great what they've

done. I really appreciate the service they've given us. The staff were very friendly.

"They get excited with us when they know you're seeing your kids. Then they normally do a follow-up call and see how it went. It's really personal," she said.

Mr Mulley said it was good to know locals had benefited from the charities they supported with two \$250 donations and said it also provided the opportunity to learn more about what they do.