

Blackbutt and Benarkin Aged Care Assn Inc.

P.O.BOX 163

BLACKBUTT Qld 4306

President: *Jeff Connor*

Secretary: *Ross Heaney*

Phone: (07) 4162 0023

(07) 4170 0123



Press Release: A time to reflect. A time to remember. Time is running out.

Blackbutt – November 11th 2010: As we stand in the mid morning sun reflecting on the fallen from battles past, we cannot help to feel grateful for all that those men and women who have fought to guarantee our country's freedom and a quality of life for one and all. Something we take so much for granted in this beautiful country of ours. But we stand there on this and every ANZAC Day to remember and thank the fallen and the survivors.

But what about our aging men and women, who fought not in war but in the everyday battles of life. The battle to raise a family, educate their children, work to earn a fair living and in turn, look forward to a well deserved retirement with a quality of life that is their entitlement.

Do we remember them - the old and the frail, the ill and the dying?

Yes, what about the ageing population of the South Burnett? Are they being remembered? Or are they being left to die alone and unappreciated, separated by long distances from loved ones?

For many years now residents of the Blackbutt and Benarkin area have been concerned at the need for our older residents who have to relocate to other centres when they have a need for residential aged care. Most of these centres are quite some distance from their home town. This has caused a tragic separation of these people from their friends and loved ones who remain living in our towns. As I am sure you will appreciate, transport to visit aged care homes that are a significant distance from ones local area is not easy in country areas.

As a result of this concern, committees were established some years ago in Blackbutt with a view to obtaining approval for an aged care home in this part of the South Burnett with a collection area of approximately 100km radius of Blackbutt. They have received advice and support from an aged care provider to the east of our area, Embracia Communities Pty Ltd. The Blackbutt and Benarkin Aged Care Assn has also received some assistance and advice from the Board of the Yarraman and District **Community Bank**[®] and Blackbutt Branch. They even own the 5 acre site for the proposed residential aged care facility.

But the strongest and loudest voices have come from YOU - the community, through the Community forums held in Yarraman and Blackbutt in April this year. After community consultations in each town, a formal and more practical plan has been established for Blackbutt and Yarraman to move forward together towards meeting the need and addressing the problems of the need for such disruptive relocation when someone has a need for aged care.

A resounding YES – Residential Aged Care - Priority One was what the community voiced

That plan has united the communities to consider whether a real case exists for a residential aged care home to be constructed in Blackbutt to service local towns and communities and this case is being developed by the Blackbutt Benarkin Aged Care Association of which I am the President.

Most recently, they conducted a community forum on 30 October 2010 and are currently surveying local people and businesses over the next month or so. A forum for potential users of the service is scheduled for early December 2010 to add specific information from affected individuals.

Will we remember them - the old and the frail, the ill and the dying? How can you help to ensure that adequate Residential Aged Care is provided in the South Burnett?

Add your voice. Get a copy of the Survey. Complete it and return it to one of the distribution points in your town or post to The Secretary, BBAC Assn, PO Box 163, Blackbutt Qld 4306

Look for the survey in Blackbutt, Benarkin, Taromeo, Linville, Moore, Harlin, Toogoolawah, Esk, Crows Nest, Kilcoy, Cooya, Bunya Mountains, Maidenwell, Yarraman Nanango, Kingaroy, Memerambi, Wooroolin, Tingoora, Wondai and Murgon.

Need more Info: Jeff Connor – President, Blackbutt Benarkin Aged Care Association Inc 0448 946 702