

Past, present and future celebrated at Parham

Jarrad Delaney

On a weekend that celebrated 150 years of history, people also embraced what made the communities of Dublin, Port Parham and Windsor great today and what the future held.

This was embodied at Port Parham, which saw the unveiling of a Commemorative Town Feature, as well as a display of classic cars and the famous jinkers for which the town has become known.

This was followed by the 150th Anniversary Dinner at Port Parham Sports and Social Club later in the evening, with 120 in attendance enjoying a three course meal.

A big part of the evening was speeches by guest speakers, covering the past, the present and the future. Historian Peter Christopher OAM was the first speaker, sharing the history of Port Parham and its connection to the ketches which came to the town to be loaded with grain during the 19th and into the early 20th century.

Mr Christopher said the 150th anniversary was a grand occasion for a town like Port Parham.

"It's pretty important to celebrate milestones like that, as there are very few ports today that had ketches visit them which are still active," he said.

"Realistically looking at Port Victoria, Port Parham, and Port Wakefield to a lesser extent, they are the only ones still left. There used to be more down the coast, and with road and rail, their reason for existing died."

Mr Christopher said the Gulf of St Vincent was quite shallow, its geographic location lending well to the small ketches which came to places like Port Parham.

Adelaide Plains Council Mayor Mark Wasley spoke about the present, although having grown up in the area he also shared stories about growing up and coming to Port Parham.

He shared memories of spending childhood school holidays in small huts made from flattened kerosene tins at Middle Beach, spearing for fish at Salt Creek, catching silver whiting or using your feet to catch crabs on the beach, and learning to do running somersaults into Bakers Creek among others.

Mr Wasley said when it came to moving into the future, a community that grew well was one where people felt they belonged, where no one was left behind.

"Tonight is a reminder that progress is not a task for a few, it is a responsibility shared by all. Each of us plays a part, parents shaping tomorrow's citizens, business owners fuelling our economy, volunteers holding the social fabric together, and residents who give this place its spirit," he said.

"So let's continue building a community that feels connected, confident and compassionate. A community that embraces change while protecting what makes it special and Adelaide Plains special."

Also on hand was Duty Member for Frome and Labor Candidate for Ngadjuri Tony Piccolo MP, representing Minister for Housing and Urban Development Nick Champion MP, to speak on the future.

Mr Piccolo said there were many examples of communities displaying resilience, working together to build a better future for all in their areas.

He said while governments, whether federal, state or local had a role to play, but ultimately it should be up to community members to really drive change and development.

"Our communities need to guide the future, and have a bit more of a say in it," he said.

"We need to reimagine how we develop our communities, there's still a role for our governments, but they should be facilitators."

Among the attendees at the dinner was famous chef and culinary identity Maggie Beer AO, whose husband Colin has been connected to Port Parham since he was four years old.

Mrs Beer said the Beer shack was well known to locals in Port Parham, and she was thrilled to be a part of the anniversary dinner.

"I think it's an important piece of history, because Port Parham has been an important part of the Beer family and I've been part of the Beer family for 56 years," she said.

Member for Frome and Liberal Candidate for Ngadjuri Penny Pratt MP gave a toast at the end of the evening, with Adelaide Plains Council Deputy Mayor, currently absent from the role while campaigning for One Nation in Ngadjuri, David Paton cutting a special cake made by Doris Woods and decorated by Sharones Cakes & Things.



Kym Bailey with the historical display on stage inside the Port Parham Sports and Social Club, which includes his 1929 Austin 7 Chummy. (Jarrad Delaney: 539361)



David Paton cuts the cake made for the occasion. (539361)



Maggie Beer AO with Member for Frome Penny Pratt MP at the anniversary dinner at Port Parham. (539361)



A close look at the cake made for the occasion, made by Doris Woods. (539361)

BHS Class of '91

35-YEAR REUNION!

**Terminus Hotel
Saturday April 18**

Calling all Balaklava High School alumni, partners, and former teachers! The Class of 1991 is hosting a 35-year reunion, and we'd love to welcome everyone who was part of our high-school era. Join us for an unforgettable night at the Terminus Hotel on Saturday April 18, as we reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate one of the most iconic chapters of our lives.


For those making a weekend of it, we're also planning:

- A visit to The Rocks
- A casual wander through the high school, and
- A relaxed Sunday BBQ lunch.

More details and updates will be posted in the Balaklava High School Friends group on Facebook.

Spread the Word!

For Tickets and Information scan the QR Code



12851353-CS11-26



GET AHEAD
KISING SUN
HOTEL
PORT WAKEFIELD SA



Sip n Save
8867 1023
30 EDWARD ST,
PORT WAKEFIELD

LEADER IN THE FIELD




**BALAKLAVA: 8862 1977
CLARE: 8842 1427**
www.plainsproducer.com.au