

# Joan's life a vault of rich experiences

JOAN Benbow, pictured, has seen and done some amazing things in her 86 years.

The former nun spent most of her adult life working as a missionary nurse in some of the most rugged parts of the world, including Bathurst Island, Papua New Guinea and the Simpson Desert.

She has lived in grass huts, conducted outdoor surgery under the setting sun and delivered babies in the bush.

"I suppose you could say my life has been interesting," the Hibiscus Bellflower Retirement Resort resident said.

"I never would have thought, as a 24-year-old nurse entering missionary life, that I'd be sent to such exotic places around the world."

Joan is easily one of the Coast's most colourful retirees and Queensland Seniors Week this week aims to pay tribute to seniors like her who continue to play vibrant roles in the community.

Hibiscus Bellflower manager Laurie Prentice said many people were not aware of the wealth of experience and knowledge that could be found in a place such as a retirement resort.

"Seniors Week gives us an opportunity to share some of the fascinating lives of our residents," he said. "It's a chance to educate our community about some very amazing seniors living in their midst."



Joan's grandfather was the first dentist in Sydney in the 1840s and her father followed in his footsteps.

Both her brothers also became dentists, so it seemed only natural that she'd enter the health profession.

"I became known as the tooth nurse," she recalled. "Natives used to come from far and wide to have me pulling teeth out. It was just one small aspect of the job."

Life on Bathurst Island was rarely dull.

"The tribes would call a fight each Saturday and order us to stay inside the hospital," Joan recalled.

"Then they'd start rolling in with their war wounds.

"We'd spend most of the afternoons stitching their scalps back onto their heads."

During her 60-year nursing career, Joan spent 15 years in the Northern Territory where

she helped build a hospital in the Simpson Desert and also managed to take care of 900 goats on the mission's property. "It was pretty hot out in the desert and our hospital had few luxuries when it came to facilities and equipment.

"You had to make do with what was on offer," she said.

Joan can't remember when she "officially" retired because she spent many years volunteering as a nurse in pal-

liative care facilities.

She believes God put her on the earth for one reason.

"My purpose in life has been to alleviate human suffering and I believe I've succeeded along the way."

**Seniors Week is being held from August 14-22. Sunshine Coast celebrations will be launched today from 9am-11am in the courtyard outside Nambour Council Chambers.**



GUEST: Leigh Matthews.

## Dine out among legends

TV legend Ray Martin will be among the big names fronting a corporate lunch associated with the third annual Celebrity Golf Day at Pelican Waters later this year.

The five-time Logie award winner will play host for a Clash of the Codes sports-themed lunch at the club on December 3.

Former Brisbane Lions coach Leigh Matthews will represent AFL on the panel against two more yet-to-be-announced panelists. The guest list at the celebrity laden lunch will also include Domestic Blitz landscaper whiz Joel Hurrey, Oarsome Foursome member James Tomkins, Olympic volleyballer Natalie Cook, the Brisbane Bears' Richard Champion, and former Brisbane Bronco Ben Ikin.

Team spots for the golf day have already sold out and tickets to the three-course lunch immediately afterwards are \$125 each.

To book phone Debbie Clark on 5443 2711.

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#### Guest Speakers:

1. Marcus Mungul Lacey - a Yolngu man from Galiwiku in N.E. Arnhem Land
2. Ikanbala Richard McLean - a Yadhakana man from the Cape York Peninsula
3. Paul Wurrumdhun Tolliday - Mawul Rom Project graduate

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GOOD HUMOUR: Cartoonist Peter Broelman with some of his beer can handiwork.

## Laughter is good enough to can

AWARD-WINNING cartoonist Peter Broelman's work is now literally on people's lips.

His humorous take on major issues has long been a source of laughter for Daily readers and now South Australian beer drinkers are also getting a kick out of his work.

Carlton and United Breweries recently approached him to produce a caricature of Adelaide Crows great Mark Ricciuto for a range of beer cans.

Along with the former Adelaide skipper's distorted image, the Carlton Draught cans feature Mr Ricciuto's picks for the Crow's all-time best team.

"The can now looks good on the outside and the inside," Mr Broelman joked yesterday from his Gawler home north of Adelaide.

Last year named Australian Cartoonist of the Year for the second time, he said he was honoured but surprised to get the commission.

"I've done stacks of things, but always in print - never on cans," he said.

"It's always been 2D, as opposed to 375ml."

The long-time Crows supporter said CUB approached him about a month ago to do the work.

"It was a nice surprise, something different," he said.

"It's good to do something with regards to footy of any persuasion, so I was happy to oblige."

- MARK BODE