

SUNSHINE COAST REGION LUNCHEON

Picturesque Maleny played host to the Sunshine Coast Region Luncheon on Wednesday 14 May 2008. A total of 47 members and guests gathered at Tranquil Park, Mountain View Road, Maleny which offered panoramic views of the magnificent Glasshouse Mountains and the Sunshine Coast hinterlands.

Following a time of meeting and greeting others the function organiser, Sunshine Coast Regional Convenor Malcolm McDonald OAM, welcomed everyone and called on Bert Wansley AM to propose the toast to The Queen. This was followed by a toast to The Order by Mick Davis AM (State Chairman) who also spoke briefly about the aims of The Order and the importance of promoting The Order wherever possible.

Grace was said by the Reverend Don Neldner.

Whilst waiting for the meal to be served Malcolm McDonald distributed a survey asking members to indicate their views on matters such as the number of luncheons per year, topics for guest speakers and possible venues.

The main course, consisting of alternate drops of fish with salad or roast of the day with vegetables, was served.

Whilst the meal was being enjoyed George Thorpe OAM introduced the guest speaker David Hockings AM with whom he had gathered native plant specimens and seeds many years ago.

David provided an interesting and enjoyable overview of 'Australian Native Plants' and his role in their commercial development. This was added to by personal anecdotes of David's ancestors and his travels throughout Australia. It was obvious to the guests that David was passionate about his topic and he himself suggested that he may even be obsessed. Following his talk David took a number of questions from obviously interested people. Malcolm thanked David for sharing his wide experience and in providing a new perspective as to the restrictions, costs and regulations in the use of native plants.

After dessert David Woodrow AM spoke about his efforts to have Association honour boards placed in Shire Councils on the Sunshine Coast and Mick Davis AM spoke about the protocols for wearing medals at Association events. Malcolm thanked all for making the day such an enjoyable occasion.



Sunshine Coast Regional Convenor Malcolm McDonald with guest speaker David Hockings AM