

## BUNDABERG REGIONAL GROUP LUNCH

The Bundaberg Regional Group staged a very successful luncheon on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August at the Brother's Sports Club.

Jonathan Welch was guest speaker and entertainer. A capacity crowd of 230 attended including National Chairman Dina Browne AO, State Chairman Mick Davis AM, Mayor of the Bundaberg Regional Council Lorraine Pyefinch and Catholic Bishop of Rockhampton Diocese Most Reverend Brian Heenan DD.

The day began with all singing the National Anthem led by Jo Carr, a former pupil of Jonathon's. Bishop Heenan offered a prayer and said grace. Lorraine Pyefinch extended a welcome to everyone; some had travelled more than 200 kilometres to attend.

After the main course the convenor, Kevin Gould OAM gave a brief report on Association matters including the death of two recipients both of which had local streets named in their honour. He advised that the next social event will be held on Saturday 22 November in Mundubbera. He thanked three generous sponsors and the committee members who assisted in organising the event, with special thanks to his wife Marjorie for her help and for being the one who suggested Jonathon Welch be invited.

Mick Davis AM addressed the gathering on state matters, with emphasis on the next National Conference to be held in Brisbane early next year.

After sweets Kevin introduced Jonathon who then delivered a thought provoking address, telling of his connection with the Choir of Hard Knocks which he founded with 50 of the marginalised from the streets of Melbourne just two years ago. Clips were shown on the

screen of the choir at practice, places where some slept – on the cement floor of a portico of a church in Melbourne's CBD and other shabby shelters and some of the individual choir members.

Jonathon led all in a sing-song of four popular numbers and concluded with a beautiful rendition of 'The Impossible Dream'. Being the finest tenor in Australia it was a joy to all.

Bill Reedman AM presented Jonathon with a keeper box, fashioned from local timber by a local wood artist. On the underside of the lid was affixed a plaque expressing appreciation and bearing the logo of the Association.

Dina Browne AO congratulated the Branch for staging such a wonderful event and thanked all for their support. Dina also thanked Jonathon for his great effort in what he is doing and wished him well for the future.

Kevin Gould OAM then presented Jonathon with a cheque for \$3000 to assist in his charitable work of encouraging and supporting the marginalised



**Jonathon Welch and Bishop Brian Heenan DD**



**Jonathon Welch - Choir of Hard Knocks**



**Kevin Gould OAM - Convener**