THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK:

DUNOLLY AND ITS WELCOME RECORD

PREFACE

The Welcome Record is and has always been a true community newsletter. Written for the community, produced, printed and distributed by the community, it is seen as the forum and fount of local news. It soon acquired the nickname "The Book", which demonstrates the affection in which it is held and the authority it is seen as carrying.

Many stories have been told and embellished on, of the *The Welcome Record*, history over the years, but a comprehensive history has never been recorded. This book aims to remedy this by consolidating evidence from primary documents such as minutes of meetings, newspaper articles, and interviews with past and present staff and volunteer workers. It is also the aim of the book to demonstrate how valuable an asset a community newsletter can be, and how this one particular paper has proved that success comes from hard work, passion and the dedication of the many people involved in its production week after week.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'd like to especially thank Brian Burbidge, current editor of *The Welcome Record* for his efforts in editing and incorporating information into this history.

I would also like to thank Jean Richardson for her insight and advice that allowed me to discover the important role *The Welcome Record* plays in keeping our community together.

To all those who contributed with information and played roles in keeping *The Welcome Record* going, we owe you a great gratitude.

SPORT LED THE WAY

Dunolly, like the rest of Australia has always had a penchant for sports and though this seems an unlikely beginning to the story of *The Welcome Record*, this is where its story begins.

There was a desire and need for a reliable form of communication between the football club, players, coaches and the public. Jock Sellers took on the challenge in 1979 and began to produce a leaflet that was dedicated to accurate reports on the results of games as wells as reports on the players, coaches and administration processes of the club. Jock was a very well respected member of the Elsternwick Amateur Football Club where he played 239 senior games between 1957 and 1971. In 2005 Jock was inducted into the Elsternwick's Football Hall of Fame and Team of the Century. He also played football for Dunolly and coached Dunolly teams. With assistance received from the Dunolly Progress Association in supplying the use of their typewriter and manual duplicator and a quantity of paper, the first leaflet went to print. The reaction was so positive that some members of the community saw the potential to expand on information in this leaflet. Various community groups could contribute information about their activities, which would make this leaflet a real community resource. A committee was eventually formed to produce what is now known as *The Welcome Record*.

To give readers some idea of what *The Welcome Record* is about we can refer to its application in the 2006 National Australia Bank Volunteer Awards;

'The Welcome Record is a community newsletter which is run entirely by volunteers...it is read by the local population of two thousand...it services Dunolly, Timor, Bealiba, Moliagul, Tarnagulla, Newbridge, Laanecorrie, Eddington, Betley and Bet Bet...it helps keep these little communities connected...it lets locals know what goods and services are available in the district...provides a forum for people to discuss and debate local

issues...provides the community with a means of communication, so that social and economic life of the community is enhanced.'

Though no records have yet been located to offer proof, it is believed that Jock Sellers was the first editor, with Shirley Akers acting as Secretary/Treasurer. Bill Akers began as President and other members of the committee included: R. Barthelson, Jean Hilder, B. Nolan, D. Boyes, R. Watts and T. Brown. Cr Bob Raven, Committee Chairman, outlined in the first newsletter advertising rates, contacts and distribution points. When the first booklet went to print it was given the title of *Dunolly Welcome Record*.

It was not possible to produce the booklet without financial assistance so Shirley Akers approached businesses around Dunolly asking that they contribute to the booklet in the form of paid advertising. The response was so good that \$350 was raised. Bill Akers was on the Bet Bet Shire Council at that time and through his association was able to procure a grant through the FACS (Family and Community Services), which was made available in 1986. The local op shop, 'Shop of Treasures' donated an amount and with the proceeds from another grant the committee of the *Dunolly Welcome Record* managed to purchase an electric duplicator.

On 1 March 1980 Jock Sellers resigned his position as editor; the vacancy filled by Jack Braun. He served for six months and on 4 October Bill Akers took on the responsibility. At this time The *Dunolly Welcome Record* was produced at private residences.

Mrs Kaye Polinelli, Mrs Faye McLeod and Miss Connie Grice took turns as typists. Each week Shirley Akers took the typewriter to the homes of whoever was on duty so that they could prepare and type the articles ready for printing. Later Mrs Sue Culley became a full time typist.

The final printing was done at the home of Mr and Mrs Akers. The first booklets were printed on yellow paper and so the booklet became affectionately known as the "Yellow Book".

Between 1983 and 1985 two electric typewriters were purchased, which was made possible due to the support of paid advertising, donations from the 'Shop of Treasures', assistance from the Shire of Bet Bet and donations from the public.

As well as her duties at *The Welcome Record* Shirley Akers was the President of the Old Boys and Girls Association in Dunolly and she and her husband contributed to and helped organise the operation of the pre-school and swimming pool, among other activities.

By 1983 the *Dunolly Welcome Record* had become a major undertaking and premises were obtained at Mrs Kitty Daly's shop in Broadway. There were at this time two typists and the band of volunteers were producing 750 copies each week. Records show that between 1983 and 1986 Mrs Kaye Polinelli, Mrs Esme Flett and Mrs Robyn Anderson took on roles as typists and the folders were Mrs Kaye Davies, Mrs Elaine McHoul, Mrs McNicol, and Mr and Mrs Des Melton. Though specific records have not been located it is believed that Mr Ron Britten and Mr R Melton took on roles as Presedents between 1983 and 1986.

Bill Akers resigned as editor in February 1984 and Shirley Akers took on the role along with her other duties as Secretary and Treasurer. She continued to hold these positions until 1986.

In the *Dunolly Welcome Record* dated Saturday 2 March 1985 a notice was placed outlining the:

"closing time for correspondence in box at Newsagency or Office of the Welcome Record 84 Broadway 12 noon Thursday."

DUNCTED TO COSE PRODUC

Saturday, 13th December, 1986 The Booklet for Everybody Circulation: 750 Copies

ADTTOM/SHORETARY - Mrs. W. Mosra, Maude Street, Dunelly, 3072. AND CONTESTION TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECURTARY AND SECURE

THE EDITOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE BUNDLEY WELCOME RECORD would like to take this opportunity to wish its readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to thank you all sincerely for your support in 1900.

The Dunolly Welcome Secord has been aponaored by the local businesses in Dunolly, Eddington, Tarnagulla, Archdale, Bowenvale, Maryborough and the Bet Shire Council.

We would like to thank these people for their support over the past

Shirley Atoro

SURGERY HOURS CHRISTMAN HOLIDAY PERIOD

Wodnesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) MORNING SURGERY ONLY Thursday 25th December (Christman Day) Friday 26th December (Boxing Day) Monday 29th December Tuesday 30th December wednesday 31st December Thursday 1st January (New Years Day) Friday 2nd January

NO SURGERY WO SUNGERY MORNIDHO SURGERY ONLY MORNING SURGERY ONLY MORNING SURGERY ONLY NO SURGERY HORNING SURGERY ONLY

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NORMAL SURGERY HOURS RESUME MONDAY Sth JANUARY, 1987.

There will be No Clinics in Bealiba or Tarnagulla on Tuesday, 30th December.

It would be greatly appreciated if consultations outside the above bours were kept to a minimum during the Christmas period.

Dr. T. D. Brecc

THIS IS THE FINAL BUILTON OF THE DUNOLLY WELCOME RECORD AND WE WISH TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE

On Saturday 13 December 1986, the *Dunolly Welcome Record* carried the following announcement on its front page,

"This is the final edition of the Dunolly Welcome Record and we wish to thank everyone for their support over the years."

Inside this edition the President R.J. Melton wrote.

"As President of the Welcome Record Committee it is with regret that I have to inform the public of the Bet Bet Shire I have received the resignation of our Editor, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Dunolly Welcome Record. Firstly I would like to sincerely thank our Editor (Shirley Akers) for the voluntary work and effort she has put into this booklet for over the last sever years for the magnificent job she has done as Editor. Well done Shirley. And secondly I would also like to thank the voluntary typists, voluntary folders and the people who have distributed this booklet and any other voluntary workers who have helped in any way at all. Thirdly, the reason why this booklet is closing down is because the government grant has been withdrawn, which in the past helped us finance the cost of the publication of the booklet.

Also, as costs have sky-rocketed out of our reach, over \$6000 per year to produce this book each week, we are unable to carry on. At the last Record Meeting the committee was very disappointed after all the work our Editor and voluntary workers have done, we had to come to this decision to wind up this committee, as all resigned as from 13th December 1986.

We do hope the people of the Bet Bet Shire will understand the position we have been placed in to have to wind up this booklet.

Thanking all the voluntary workers once again for helping to produce this booklet from one page to sometimes ten pages."

Shirley Akers responded:

Note of Thanks:

"As retiring Editor of the Dunolly Welcome Record I would like to sincerely say thank you to the wonderful band of voluntary workers who have helped in the past twelve months with the production of the Record.

The Typists: Kaye Polinelli, Esme Flett and Robyn Anderson.

The Folders: Mrs McNicol, Mrs McHoul, Mrs Kay Davies, Dianne Melton, Ron Britten, Bob Melton, Lil Greenwood and Noreen Watts.

Duplication: Thanks to Ron Britten for your assistance with duplicating.

Distributors: Mrs Pat Byrne, Mr Murdock, Mr & Mrs Raymond Close, Bert Poole, Ron Holt, Ken Graham, Frank Stephens and Ray Jones.

I sincerely appreciate what you have done for me in the past.

Many thanks to Mrs Elaine McHoul, Fabian McHoul and Mrs Mavis Williams for delivering the booklet around Dunolly to every household each week.

To the Dunolly and District Business people for their support and their donations to advertise with us, also to the people who have donated to this booklet, no matter how large or small – many thanks.

To the Sporting Bodies and Organisations who did appreciate the coverage we have given them over the past years and sent along a donation to help this booklet to be published each week. Also thank you to the organisations who invited us to their functions.

As you realise we have been voluntarily publishing 750 copies 48 weeks of the year. We believe that you all so enjoy reading them.

We have received many letters form all over Australia to say they have received this booklet from their friends and how they liked to read what is going on in Dunolly, which was once their home town. We do appreciate their kind words and thoughts.

Many thanks to the Shire President, Councillors, Secretary Jim Thompson, Bryce Rawlings, for their help and support especially over the last couple of months.

Without the help of these people mentioned and the support I received from everyone and (my marvellous typists) we would not have been able have published this booklet for the last 8 years.

Last but by no means least; I do sincerely thank Kevin and Mary Newell for the ever lasting financial support in the last 12 months to keep this booklet going up till this date. Thank you very much, I only wish there were a few more like you two about.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

After eight years of operation the *Dunolly Welcome Record* ceased production.

NEW BEGINNINGS

The closure of the *Record* highlighted its importance and value in providing a conduit of communication for Dunolly and the surrounding district. Soon afterwards a number of community minded people formed a committee to enquire into the viability of restarting the *Welcome Record*.

Enthusiasm within the Shire of Bet Bet showed the re-establishment committee that the loss of the *Dunolly Welcome Record* was hard felt and that the paper had been an important source of information and was greatly missed. The tremendous response from the public that has continued to the present day has ensured the survival of the *Record*.

On 25 May 1987 a new committee was formed to re-establish the *Welcome Record*. With the backing of the Shire of Bet Bet and their loan of \$1,500 *The Welcome Record* launched its first edition dated Saturday 6 June 1987.

The Office Bearers were: Editor; Mick Drew, Co-Ordinator; Mrs Dawn Drew, President: Cr. Bob Raven, Vice-President: Mr Ken Roberts, Secretary; Mrs Anne Doran, Treasurer; Mrs Jeanette Richards, Printing; Mr. Laurie Wadeson, Distributor; Mrs Peg Kopacka, Typists; Mrs Kaye Polinelli, Mrs Esme Flett, Mrs Dawn Drew, Folders; Mrs Elaine McHoul, Mrs Jean Hilder, Miss Maria Woodward, Mrs Jeanette Richards, Mrs Rene Fox, Mrs Peg Kopacka, Mrs Noreen Watts, and Mrs Cathy Smith.

The Welcome Record has never been a registered newspaper and therefore was not limited to distribution through newsagents. However, in common with all other published matter it is still governed by defamation laws. There have been a couple of times when *The Welcome Record* had needed to defend itself but has never had to face charges.

The Bet Bet Shire demonstrated further interest in the booklet assisting in many ways such as providing paper and ink at reduced costs and arranging audit of the accounts. *The Welcome Record*, though, had to fund its own insurance, which was paid at \$50.00 for the year. So with a bank balance of \$2,000.00 *The Welcome Record* went into print.

The new venture was such a success that the loan from the Shire of Bet Bet was repaid over two years and since that time the paper has not needed substantial financial assistance from the Shire.

The equipment that belonged to the previous *Dunolly Welcome Record* was also bought for the new *Welcome Record* by the Shire.

There were many teething problems associated with the antiquated equipment but with the donation of a printer and copier by Mr Michael Stroud, the *Record* generally achieved smooth operation; although, one day the workers experienced a total printing disaster. The work had to be sent out to Ron Emerson Printers in Maryborough for a few weeks. This was such a costly experience that Father Tom Banfield took on the printing at his home. During this period two more people, Daryl O'Brien and Sue Kelly, joined the printing crew..

Another huge problem in the printing room was caused by clogged gutters. When heavy rain fell, the overflow leaked into the print room. Eventually this problem was fixed.

The Welcome Record from 7 August 1987 was being run and produced in the old Secretary's room on the premises of the Town Hall and is still produced on these premises in 2006.



Welcome Record Office L-R, Vicky Frizzell, Betty Bock, Jan Ford, Mike Lester Front Jean Richardson with Susie

During 1987 the electric printers were replaced with a Ricoh 1010 off set printer priced at \$1,500.00 and Ted Austin began assisting in the printing. An Olivetti M24 MS Dos IBM compatible operating system was purchased for \$1,350.00 along with a Data Products Printer 8012 priced at \$460.00. The purchase of new computers enabled Mrs Lyn Labas, Mrs Liz Steinke and Mrs Denise James to join the ranks.

Capitalising on its rapport with the community *The Welcome Record* committee asked groups, clubs and organisations to supply details of their organizations. With this information a Community Service Guide was produced. The committee also established new prices for advertising, which were based on the sizes of the advertisements. Articles and write-ups on events were to be published free of charge and this is still policy in 2006. The prices were listed as follows:

Subscriptions for roadside delivery (RMB) - \$10 per year payable in advance.

Trade directory - \$40 per year also payable in advance.

Then as now the Trade Directory was published as an insert. The first Directory was included in the issue of 4 August 1987.

There was a differential between regular and casual advertising. Casual advertisers paid a premium. The rates were as follow:

1/4 page \$5.00, (casual \$7.50)

½ page \$10.00, (casual \$15.00)

Full page \$20.00, (casual \$30.00)

Advertisers were expected to settle their accounts on a monthly basis.

Minimum advertisement rates were:

\$2.00 per single column line (approx 10 words per 15.5cm line)

\$1.00 per two column line (approx 5 words per 7.5cm line).

Community organisations were allowed a further discount.

Full page \$10.00.

The Welcome Record also expanded its distribution to townships outside the Bet Bet Shire. The use of 'Honesty Boxes' encouraged a donation of 20 cents per copy.



Folding table, Jean Richardson &?

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

In February 1988 The Welcome Record had the telephone connected and for the first time the contact telephone number became part of the front page.

Later that year, in September, at a committee meeting there were discussions about obtaining a new plate maker and increasing the paper size.

During 1988 Carolyn Butler, Jan Ford, Lyn Fry, Ron Fry, Thane Drew, Wally Griffith and Maurice Butler joined *The Welcome Record* along with two reporters W.R. Angeline Llewellyn and Rachel Lord. Both Ron and Thane were the resident cartoonists and Wally and Maurice assisted with the printing.

Towards the end of the year Caroline Everett became a member of the layout staff. It was during this time that only 650 copies of *The Welcome Record* were being produced but due to the great response to the paper production stepped back up to 750 copies as was being produced during the early years.

The Melcome Record

Unlume 3 No. 38-

Date 28th. October, 1988 Donation 20 cents

BACK-TO-DUNOLLY AND DUNOLLY GOLD RUSH PROGRAM

Friday 28th October STREET CARNIVAL

Broadway closed off from 6pm to 9pm.

6pm: Everyone invited to come to Broadway. There will be plenty to eat, so come for tea.

6.30pm: Official Opening at Dunolly Town Hall.

7pm: Official Launching of Back-to Book - "DUNOLLY - YESTERDAY AND TODAY" at Town Hall. This will be followed by Dunolly Brass Band Recital.

STALLS: Cakes, Soup, Coffee, Crafts, Spinning Wheel, Chicken and Icecream, Sidewalk Tables/Chairs (Period Costume), Hotel Counter Teas.

BANDS: Dunolly Brass Band 7pm to 8pm.

GRAND CONCERT: 8pm Dunolly Town Hall, Variety of local artists. Admission \$3.00 Adults, Children \$1.00.

Saturday 29th October

llam to 3pm: BACK-TO DUNOLLY PRIMARY SCHOOL. Roll Call and Afternoon Tea.

1.30pm: Photographic Display, Dunolly Town Hall. Scouts - Damper and Billy Tea Stall.
(Demonstrations) - Dunolly Town Hall.
Afternoon Tea - Dunolly Town Hall Ladies.

2pm: Senior Citizens - Open Afternoon - Clubrooms open invitation for anyone to come in and have a chat and afternoon tea.

3pm: Back-to DUNOLLY DISTRICT HOSPITAL. Roll Call and Afternoon Tea.

8pm: DUNOLLY MEMORIES with Dave Haden. Slides, etc. - St John's Hall, and supper.

8pm to 12pm: OLD-TIME DANCE, Dunolly Town Hall. Adults \$3.00, School Children \$1.00. Proceeds to Dunolly and District Hospital.

In 1989 Anna Ashton joined the layout group and May Kerrison joined the typists. Rod McHoul and Heather Sinclair became members of the folding team. Ken Roberts took over the office of President and Rene Fox, Mick and Dawn Drew, and Reverend Tom Banfield become committee members along with council representative Cr. Ivan Younghusband. In April the same year Aviva Sheb'a and Joy Pratt joined the layout group along with Dave Nolan and Ana Pimental in May. Esme Flett returned as a typist and Judy Nolan joined the folders. When Reverend Tom Banfield left *The Welcome Record* in May, Bert Powlesland began as a printer.

At the Annual General Meeting in August 1989, Jeanette Richards took over the Vice-Presidency and Maurice Butler became Treasurer. Later in that year Vicky Frizzell joined *The Welcome Record* and together with Jean Richardson took on the task of dealing with the public. When the Drew's left Lyn Fry took on the editor's job. Lesley Edwards joined the layout crew. Ken Tanner and Carolyn and Maurice Butler added to the numbers on the committee in October and Elaine and Fabian McHoul volunteered as folders.

Mike Lester also came to *The Welcome Record* in December 1989 along with two new folders, Michael Geurtz and Robert Dangerfield and a typist Lyn Freemantle.

The beginning of a new era arrived at *The Welcome Record* in February 1990 when Cr. Anne Doran obtained a grant through the Minister for Community Services of Victoria, Peter Spyker. The grant of \$5,575 enabled *The Welcome Record* to purchase a new printer.

In May 1990 Maurice Butler used his contacts at Monash University to obtain a 1975 Addressograph Multilith 1250 off set printer and this was installed at *The Welcome Record* with the assistance of Keith and Angie Allen. The new printer

caused a number of headaches and gave printing staff the 'pip' and from then on the printing press was affectionately called 'Pip'.



Through all the changes of technology since 1990 'Pip' has continued to produce *The Welcome Record* at an economical price and looks to be around for many more years despite being quite cantankerous about what type of paper it requires.

Over the years numbers of upgrades were made to the computer systems, which has enable *The Welcome Record* to keep up with the changes in technologies. One of the most significant changes to have happened in recent years has been the introduction of the internet and email facilities.

The town of Dunolly was also growing with the population expanding from 600 people in 1987 to 740 by 1992. *The Welcome Record* enjoyed continued success and prosperous growth over the years and had been able to donate funds to the community. The most prominent was to the Dunolly Hospital. In February 1998 the following pledge was made:

"That The Welcome Record Inc. pledge 10,000 to be paid in five years time to the Dunolly District Hospital Aged Care Residential Appeal. This pledged money will be payable on the 4 February 2003 if the fund raising for the target of \$350,000 is successful."

The pledge was paid out in full in February.



Also during May 1990 Jean James became a member of the typing crew and Brian Bauch a new folder and Geoff Jeanes became an assistant printer. By June a new junior reporter joined *The Welcome Record*; his name Ken Pimental. In November Caroline Everett returned as a layout artist and Kaye Polinelli returned as a typist.

On 27 June 1990 *The Welcome Record* became 'Incorporated'. The Office Bearers at that time were: President; Ken Roberts, Vice-President; Cr, Anne Doran, Secretary; Carolyn Butler, Treasurer; Maurice Butler. Committee members were Lyn Fry, Jeanette Richards, Jean Richardson and Liz Steinke.

A new helper in the print room was William Goltz who resided in Tarnagulla (approx 24kms away). He rode his bicycle into Dunolly each week.

After another successful year *The Welcome Record* began 1991 on a high note with the purchase of a new Superset 490 computer. The Trade Directory increased from four pages to six and *The Welcome Record* began producing a 24 page paper with a distribution of 650 copies. It also changed to new look headings and sub headings.

Mid way through 1991 Ken Green joined the computer group and Vanessa Longley joined the folders. At the end of August 1991 Maurice Butler took over as editor and in October Ethel Williams assisted the folders. After the general meeting in November the committee donated \$100 towards the Dunolly Historic Village.

The Welcome Record Dunolly/BetBet Shire News

Office: Broadway, Dunolly, Victoria 3472 Telephone: 681054 Deadline Tuesday noon

VOL. 5 NO. 40

BTH NOVEMBER 1991

DONATION: 20c.

DUNOLLY GOLD RUSH WEDDING

A very levely bride, Lyn Coff, dressed in a traditional primad satin gown, arrived by Cobb and Co coach to wed Traver McDougail on Doomaday Hill at the Dunolly Gold Rush.

The attendants looked lovely dressed in electric blue dresses; the men wearing black suits with blue bow lies and cummerbunds.

Signing the register at an antique table and chair under the gum trees, it was a beautiful setting for the wedding, performed by Marriage Celebrant, Mr. Harry Biggs.

The bride and groom have their own home at Tempoula and we wish them all the very best for the future.

HUGE SUCCESS

DUNOLLY GOLD RUSH COLONIAL FESTIVAL - 1991

After months of planning and preparation, the 19th annual Gold Rush Festival made a comeback, bigger and better than ever before. The three-day lestval was organised by the Gold Flush Committee, turned margic on Friday evening with the Mardi Gras in the street, followed by the Penny Concert. What a highli Not even standing room! The talent by our local children and adults was just unbefevable. keeping committee members busy collecting votes. Our thanks to Ivan, Styce, Colin and Philip and all the artists who performed, and thuse who supported the concert.

Street Procession, a kaleidoscope of colour, as the entrants paraded through Broadway and

turned into the back streets to go around the route again. People cheered and dispped at the passing parade. Entries this year were of a very high standard. The Gold Rush Committee isself had entered with Sert the minor pushing the barrow with the gold nugget. Sharon the swagple and Anne the Settler's wife. Thank you to all the judges and commentators and congratulations to all who took part in the

Our very special thanks to all the bands who participated, especially the members of the Continued page 2

NAME GIVING CEREMONY

Alyce Shannon Adamson, daughter of Steve and Bey Adamson of Greensborough was the child who was at the centre of the Name Giving Ceremony, also performed by Mr. Harry Biggs.

NATURALISATION CEREMONY

Heather, we were so proud of you. It couldn't have gone better and what better place to become an Aussie than our Dunolly Gold Fluish.

As Bruce Reid commented "A beautiful bush setting in the heart of the gold country in Central Victoria".

You looked lovely, you spoke well and we are sure it will be a moment you will always

Congratulations
Welcome Record folders. Congratulations Heather from your fellow On 13 May 1992 the *Maryborough Advertiser* included a supplement titled 'The Country Newspaper Week' that outlined the mammoth job that local community newspapers undertake and urged the public to consider the role their paper plays in the community. In an article 'Our town' with Wayne Gregson, he points out the heart of the Dunolly community as being *The Welcome Record*. Jean Richardson sums up the Welcome Record in her words,

"Well, I think we're pretty special, even if our own people from time to time take us for granted and forget how special we are."

Jean held the position of President at that time and the other Office Bearers were Cr. Anne Doran; Vice President, Maurice Butler; Treasurer, Anne Doran, Carolyn Butler, Lyn Fry, Ken Green, Ana Pimental, Jean Richardson and Ken Roberts were the committee members. It is wise to note that there was no Secretary listed at that time so it is assumed the members of the staff all contributed to the tasks that would normally have been relegated to the Secretarial position; a testament to the dedication and competence of all those volunteers.



Jean Richardson

Another indication of how popular *The Welcome Record* is, can be found in the short article published in *The Welcome Record* on 2 March 1990;

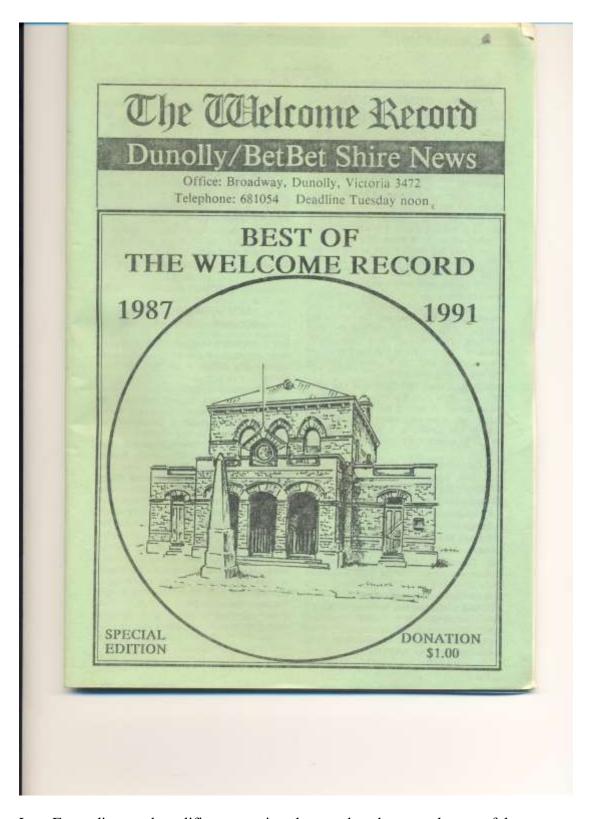
"Sold Out. So it's finally happened! The Welcome Record sold out every last copy. There wasn't a single Welcome Record left in town by early Saturday afternoon."

SPEAKING FOR THE TOWN

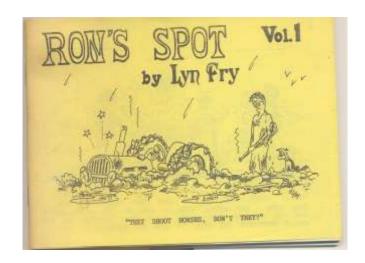
Apart from the regular problems associated with producing a weekly paper such as equipment breakdowns, staff illnesses and financial difficulties, there are other occasional problems. *The Welcome Record* reported in Vol. 4 No. 14 dated 19 May 1989, that the office was hit by a thief.

"Some time between 4.00pm on the 9th and 9.00am on the 10th May portion of our valuable funds was stolen from The Welcome Record office at the Town Hall. We have learnt our lesson and money is no longer kept in the office. Unfortunately the much needed Print Plate Maker is now to be purchased further in the future due to this act."

In 1991 along with the regular weekly production a special *Welcome Record* edition titled 'The Best of the Welcome Record 1987-1991' was produced.



Lyn Fry, editor and prolific cartoonist also produced two volumes of her cartoons, some of which appeared in *The Welcome Record* as 'Ron's Spot.'



The worth of a community newsletter can be seen when it takes the risk to print what other newspapers are unwilling to print. On 22 June 1994 Jean Richardson took on the role of editor with greater vigour to ensure the paper would survive. Her introduction to the complexities of the role came at a time when not only was *The Welcome Record* in financial crisis. Necessary expenditure had left temporary cash flow problems and with the recent computer upgrades, that left no money to buy paper for the printing press

In an interview with Jean in 2004 she had this to say about her time at the paper.

"My first job when I began working at the newspaper, all those years ago, was to help set up an accounting system. Though the newspaper had been in production for some time, they did not have proper accounting records. Accounts were sometimes paid over the counter, but most commonly not at all. Interestingly, the same system I helped set up is still in use today.

One day I was talking to the wife of a manager of a book-printing business and revealed the plight of The Welcome Record. This lady told me the company always had scrap paper that they often passed on to schools, and to leave it with her. She spoke to her husband, and thanks to the generosity of the business The Welcome Record had paper. Some of the workers at the company even assisted with the guillotining for the 'price' of a slab of beer.

Unfortunately, someone from The Welcome Record did have to take a trailer to collect the paper, but that was a small price to pay. Mike Kelly did the honours. It took two years before we were financial enough to purchase new paper.

Pip the printing press made the decision on what type of paper was to be used. She would spit out paper and cause all sorts of problems for the workers if the paper wasn't exactly right," Jean says with a giggle, "But I did feel sorry for those people operating the press."

. The township of Dunolly was also facing a crisis. The Kennett Government was pulling out all stops to have the Dunolly Hospital closed. *The Welcome Record* came to the fight with great gusto, allowing the 'book' to be the voice of the community at a time when other local papers refused to print the words of the people. Peter Farago wrote in *The Welcome Record*,

"we possibly wouldn't have saved the hospital without the paper."

During the ensuing years more volunteers had been recruited who took on various roles as typist, folders, printer operators or as members of management.

Jean described her time as Editor as

"demanding and a bit frightening at times. Being responsible for getting the paper out on time, helping the volunteers and being the first point of contact added to the pressures. The possibility of being sued was always a worry. Twice the paper was faced with legal problems. Fortunately, we never needed to go to court."

It was evident that 15 years working at *The Welcome Record* had been a passion that still fired up a lot of emotions in her, even though she had retired in 2003.

"It's important as an editor to make friends in the town and keep in contact with them, even if it is only a brief hello on the street," she stated. "Being recognized and remembered is the best way to unearth the stories that people have to tell, and everyone does have a tale or two."

On the 28 December 2001, in recognition of the important role Jean performed in the community, she was awarded a medal that was created to – honour living persons who have made a contribution to Australian society or government, including Australians who have lived through our first Centenary of Federation, who have made a contribution to the nation or locality. Jean said,

"I did not feel at all jubilant; rather, I felt dreadful because this medal did not really represent the full extent of the involvement of people behind the scenes. I felt that everyone working at the newspaper and those who contribute to the paper's success should have been similarly rewarded. It is a team effort."

Jean is an inspiration to all who know her and she said,

"I am always willing to pass on the skills I have gained over a lifetime, to anyone who cares to ask."

Another person worth noting in the history of *The Welcome Record* is Maurice Butler, who took on more than just the role of printer, treasurer and editor. He also became a bird saver as reported in *The Welcome Record* 30 July 1973 by Vicky Frizzell:

"Well done Maurie. Our Intrepid editor risked life and limb on Tuesday to save the lives of two very dumb pigeons trapped in the Town Hall. He opened one of the windows to let the pigeons out and the window jammed open. Because the windows are so high up, Maurie had to get a ladder and climb on to the roof to unjam the window himself. Not many editors would've done that job, Maurie's comment when he was safely on the ground? "Next time, we'll shoot 'em."

This type of dedication would be frowned upon today, what with the unions, and occupational, health and safety issues.

Over the years the Record has had distribution problems especially to the areas furthest from Dunolly. However, these have always been solved by someone stepping forward. This happened with the delivery to Newbridge in 1993.

There were also some noted changes in *The Welcome Record* as the following piece states:

"Dear Editor

Did you see it?

Have you noticed any change in the way the Welcome Record is presented each week?

You didn't?

Well have another look then! Now you can see it too, can't you. I knew you would!

But maybe there are still some Welcome Record readers who haven't noticed the new appearance. Have a really good look!

Do you notice all the little graphics (pictures) beside stories, which give our paper a real lift?"

Over the years the content of the *The Welcome Record* has chaged to some degree. In 1987 there was Recipe Corner, Handy Hints, Quotations, Gardener, Sports and Letters to the Editor as well as various articles. The Gardener segment was changed to Happy Gardener in 1988 and a Mining Correspondent segment also began. Photographs and cartoons, as well as a Remember When segment began the same year. The changing face of *The Welcome Record* can be seen in the segments that began in 1989, Health topics, Jo's Kitchen, Written and Bitten by Travel Bug, Down Memory Lane, Susan's Gourmet Delights, Crossword, Stung into Action, Cooking with Lyn and Poet's Corner. In 1990 a Kids corner was added. In 2006 the regular segments are Letter to the Editor, Weekly Watch on the Web, Classifieds, Happy Gardener, Wildlife Talk, Poetry, Cookery Corner, Crossword, Sport and articles from various government departments as well as regular articles from the many organisations in the district.

In 1993 Theresa Milne, Lisa McCann, Heather Penny, Clare Parker, Mark Kelly, John Wait, Merv Newell and Renate Haley had joined the volunteer staff and *The Welcome Record* donated \$2,000 to the Town Hall Committee for repairs.

In 1994 we were being reminded of the problems associated with community newsletters and newspapers. There was a move to have all community newsletters forced to upgrade to newspaper status so that they would be bound by the laws that specifically affect newspapers. In an increasingly litigious society *The Welcome Record* has to take note of possible libel in its pages. The point being made was that 'anyone who prints any material is likely to commit libel either by accident or design.' *The Welcome Record* is acutely aware of these problems and though it may seem that material may be of interest, sometimes it has to be held back to prevent the *Record* being placed in an untenable position.

Financially 1994 was a good year for *The Welcome Record*. It had enough funds in its term deposits to cover any emergencies that might arise. At this time there had been no increases to either the donation cost of 20 cents per paper or the cost of advertising despite the rise in expenditure.

But to enable *The Welcome Record* to keep its costs to a minimum and to ensure that the paper continued into the future it was deemed necessary to raise some of its prices. The donation price for was raised to 40 cents and advertising prices were also raised. The 'Yellow Book' also changed to a white cover and these changes resulted in a saving of around \$500 per year. Though there was initial shock and outrage at the change from the 'Yellow Book' to white, overall most members of the community understood the reason for the changes and accepted them and embraced the new look. Advertising rates appeared as: RMB \$30.00 per year, and a new Community rate was introduced into the advertising categories.

Size	Casual	Regular	Community
1/6 page	\$10	\$5	\$4
1/4 page	\$15	\$10	<i>\$6</i>
1/2 page	\$30	\$20	\$12
Full page	\$50	\$40	\$20

There was a regular minimum charge of \$4 for a small advert up to four lines and \$1 per line after and \$2 for community adverts with 50 cents per line after. These rates, together with the trade directory charge pf \$40 for 1/6 page remain the same in 2006.

There were changes to the Office Bearers in 1994 with Mark Kelly as President, Jean Richardson; Vice President, Coral Christensen; Secretary, Ken Green; Treasurer and Committee members were, Ana Pimental, Mary Kerrison, and Rene Fox.

In 1995 the minutes show that the only changes were to the Secretarial position; Carolyn Butler took over the role, and there were more members of the

Committee; Pam Anyon, Theresa Milne, Betty Bock, Leslie Whiley and Maurice Butler. Other volunteer crew who joined at the same time were Joyce Marshall, Sharon Skinn, Robyn Dobbie, and John Everett.

Due to lack of volunteers in 1995, the number of distribution outlets was rationalised. The list of outlets is a trip down memory lane. These outlets were taken off the list: Royal Hotel, Railway Hotel, Jenkins Hairdresser, Dunolly Hair and Beauty, Williams General Store, Stan & Olly, Chadwick's Butchers, Gibb's Butchers, The Golden Triangle Motel and Wolfgang Domes. The outlets that were kept included Dunolly Newsagent, Tom Daly's General Store, Goodfellows Supermarket, Dunolly Bakery, Welcome Stranger Café, and Lindsay's Licensed Grocer. In the last few years the Newsagent and Welcome Stranger Café have closed. In 2006 there are 21 distribution places around the district.

During this year donations were made towards repairs to the rotunda in the Gordon Gardens in Dunolly and to the Dunolly Pre-School.

In 1997 there were some changes again to the Office Bearers. Betty Bock took over as President though the other positions remained unchanged except for the members of the Committee dwindling to Mark Kelly, May Kerrison, Theresa Milne, Irene Fox, and Lesley Whiley. *The Welcome Record* donated \$3,500.00 to the Beds for Hospital appeal in August of this year.

In 1998 Betty Bock carried on as President, Lesley Wiley; Vice President, Carolyn Butler; Secretary, Maurice Butler; Treasurer and Committee members; May Kerrison, Theresa Milne and Jean Richardson. Mike Lester joined the office group as proof reader. Donations were also made to the Wildlife and Information Network and for repairs to the Town Hall. A story competition was run with the winner receiving \$100.00.

On 15 October 1999 *The Welcome Record* was connected to the World Wide Web and their address was welcomerecord@netgazer.net.au. This has changed and in 2006 the address being welcomerecords@hotkey.net.au.

Pam and Bill Collins joined as volunteers. When Irene (Rene) Fox died *The Welcome Record* suggested that the gardens next to the Town Hall be named in her honour. This was done. Rene, who gave so much to the paper, is also remembered through the Happy Gardener column, which is still a regular feature of *The Welcome Record*.

Major changes in 1999 were the installation of a cordless telephone and the acquisition of a scanner, which meant that the electronic age had well and truly arrived at the paper. The paper also donated \$100.00 to the Betley Mechanics Institute Hall Committee.

In the year 2000 there was discussion about a goods and services tax (GST) and the treasurer of *The Welcome Record*, Maurice Butler, had this to say,

"The Committee of The Welcome Record Inc. has decided that whilst we have been allocated with ABN 19 299 170 473, we have not registered for the GST and so cannot issue 'Tax Invoices' and will absorb the GST added to our input costs. The cost of The Welcome Record will not increase due to the GST. It is not proposed to vary advertising charges in the immediate future. The Committee may review pricing generally either late this year or early next year in the light of possible changes to our method of production and any significant and sustainable variations in input costs."

At this time, Joyce Vater, Doreen Burman and Ethyl Williams joined the volunteer crew.

On KLFM radio, news from *The Welcome Record* was broadcast each week.

. In 2001 the only changes to the Office Bearers was to the Committee in which only two members were listed; May Kerrison and Theresa Milne, and in 2002 the only change was the addition of Helen Jesser to the committee. Jan Ford and Debbie Bari also become volunteers the same year.

When the Editor of *The Welcome Record* received unwanted attention, which sparked fears of insecurity to the volunteer workers, bars and screens were fitted to the windows of the office in 2002.

In 2003 the volunteer members register shows the following workers; Debbie Bari, Betty Bock, Sue and Brian Burbidge, Carolyn and Maurice Butler, Coral Biram, Jan Ford, Vicky Frizzell, Mike Hiley, Helen Jesser, May Kerrison, Mike Lester, Jean Richardson and Joannna Vandenheuvel. Not listed on the register but also volunteers were Shirley Xanthos, Frank Atkins and Valda Boyd.

A new wide-platen laser printer A3 LBP 2000 was installed in 2004. This was to enable the pink master plates to be printed directly from the computer without the use of the photocopier. This resulted in an increase in print quality. Photographs began to make regular appearances also.

The number of copies printed weekly had been cut back to 560 copies. The Office Bearers for that year were President; Betty Bock, Vice President; Brian Burbidge, Secretary; Carolyn Butler, Minute Secretary; Jan Ford, Treasurer; Maurice Butler and the Committee consisted of May Kerrison, Theresa Milne, Susan Burbidge, Jan Ford, Jeanette Richardson and Vicky Frizzell. New rollers for the printing press had to be purchased at this time and 100 extra copies of *The Welcome Record* were produced for the Christmas edition.

In 2005 the comfort of the office crew was improved when *The Welcome Record* purchased a Kelvinator Reverse Cycle, Split System, air Conditioner and had it installed. Brian Burbidge, May Kerrison and Susan Burbidge were appointed as the Editorial Committee. Marion Da Costa and Christine Mildren also joined the office crew. Later in 2005 a new heater was purchased and placed in the print room. This

room must be heated before printing takes place in winter to enable the ink to flow freely.

At the Annual Meeting the following people were elected as Office Bearers: President; Betty Bock, Vice President; Helen Jesser, Secretary; Jan Ford, Treasurer; Maurice Butler with the committee consisting of May Kerrison, Carolyn Butler, Susan Burbidge, Brian Burbidge, Jeanette Richards and Christine Mildren. In October this same year *The Welcome Record* discussed accepting connection to Broadband and a donation of \$5,000.00 was made to the State Emergency Service in Dunolly.

In March 2006 Jan Ford resigned her position as Secretary and Carolyn Butler took on the role and Pam Anyon joined the committee in April.

The Welcome Record also donated to the Dunolly 150th committee sums of \$500.00 for Chinese Noiseworks, \$300.00 towards First Aid and \$150 towards the Living History display.

At the 2006 meeting the Office Bearers elected were: President; Helen Jesser, Vice President; Jean Richardson, Secretary; Carolyn Butler, Treasurer; Maurice Butler, with Committee members; Pam Anyon, Brian Burbidge, Susan Burbidge, Theresa Milne and Christopher Snowman.

It was a sad day for the people at *The Welcome Record* and for the town when they learned of the death of their one time Editor and cartoonist Lyn Fry. Just prior to her death she put her little bit of history on tape and May Kerrison transcribed her words and featured them in *The Welcome Record*...

"moved to Blairgowrie, just below Mt Hoogly in 1967...raised Clydesdales...was an artist and painter...on Anzac day her best friend took her husband away...and a tumour was discovered in her (Lyn's) head."

The Welcome Record office does much more than prepare a paper ready for the printer. It is also a de facto tourist centre. This is evident from the article which appeared in 2003.

"NOT JUST A LOCAL NEWSPAPER

There are many things we can't do at the Welcome Record. This week we would have love to have put in photographs of the Under 15 Netball team but thought it wouldn't be fair on the girls to see themselves as black and grey splodges!

There are other things we do that don't even get into print. For example it is surprising how many tourists seeking information on Dunolly's history find their way to the WR office. We try to make sure that they go away happy and with a list of places to see and people to contact for further information.

And of course they are told the best places to have lunch, buy petrol, hardware, craftwork and newspapers. If this isn't enough we point them at the RTC to get more information from the Internet.

This isn't something that we would call work. Seeing the town through someone else's eyes means that we can view our familiar places with new interest. It's a good place to live."

This little thank you note also shows that *The Welcome Record* is one of the first places visitors and past community members go to find that missing relative or piece of information:

"GENEALOGY SEARCH SUCCESSFUL!

A note to thank you most sincerely for placing a few lines in the Dunolly Welcome Record."

This isn't something that we would call work. Seeing the town through someone else's eyes means that we can view our familiar places with new interest. It's a good place to live.

What began as a small leaflet in 1979 and became a six page booklet in 1987 now reaches 32 pages on a regular basis but it is still solely produced by volunteers.

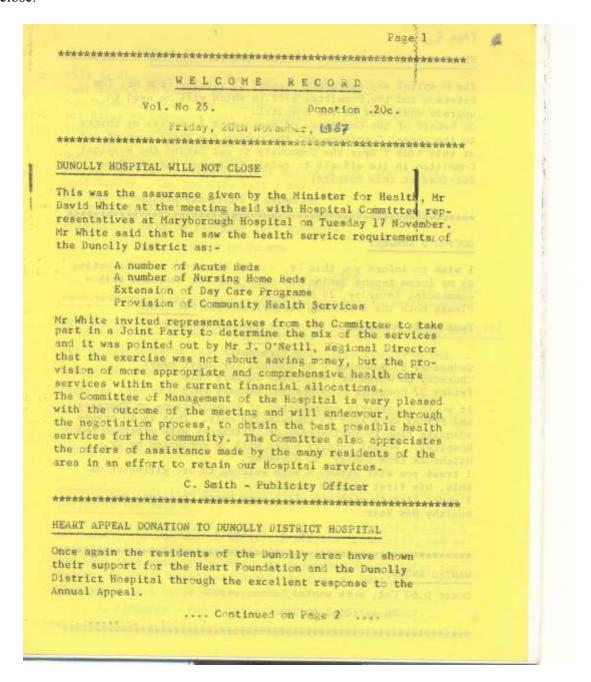
As a final note on the history of *The Welcome Record* it seems appropriate to include some of the major headlines or items of interest that graced the front pages throughout the years.

In August 1980 – "Gold nugget found at Dunolly", 1981 – article on "replacement of water pipes in Bull Street, Lawrence Street, Elgin Street, and Inkerman Street between Bull and Tweeddale Streets", March 1981 – "advice that Mildura train service will not stop at Dunolly or Bealiba", February 1982 – "problems with Tarnagulla domestic water supplies", July 1982 – "theft of meat from Dunolly Butcher Shop, Snr. Cons. Laurie Wadeson enlisted help from local residents to surround shop", June 1983 – "new baker opens, line up of people waiting for fresh bread", 1984 – "visit by Governor General Sir Ninian Stephens and Lady Stephens", June 1984 – "building demolition tenders called for, 79-81 Broadway", In 1985 the Bet Bet Shire Secretary requested "residents of Bealiba, Dunolly, Newbridge and Tarnagulla to water the trees on their nature strips." It was obvious that drought conditions as well as unavailability of staff prompted this call. Also in the same year there were "Dunolly Sewerage Proposal", "Garbage Collection – 2 bags only", "Shortage of midwives at hospital".

On 6 September 1986 the front page was taken over by a "Death Notice – Passed away 10.30am 3 September 1986, Shire Amalgamations Issue, RIP, also, Shire of Bet Bet Option, Ditto," and was signed by "Amused Ratepayer". Of course we all remember from the earlier note that there were problems keeping the Dunolly Hospital open and this headline appeared on 4 July 1987 – "Wake Up Dunolly and Districts", the article went on to ask that the community fight for their hospital. No paper would be complete without references to political matters and the following snippet from an article on 14 August 1987 is testament to the correct word usage – "Please Explain Mr Desailly" read the headline and the first paragraph said, "Just what do you mean by 'Council has some concerns about the well known and widely

practised art of suborning public meetings? In my dictionary "suborn" means "bribe to do evil". Who are you accusing of this?'

The fact that *The Welcome Record* was the voice of the community it was of no surprise when the headlines on 20 November 1987 stated – "Dunolly Hospital will not close."



Over the years most headlines were predictably related to community organizations - deaths, accident reports, sporting wins, opening and closing of buildings and businesses, as well as local council; state and federal policy changes which affected the community.

Of course there are the unusual or wacky stories that occasionally appeared as the following headlines illustrate – "A Snake tale", "Was it the Puma", "Our Bet Bet Puma – another sighting", "Elephant Fund Raises", of course this refers to white elephant auction and not a real elephant, but this one does feature the real elephant "Go Ginny", apparently Ginny the elephant wanted a taste of freedom and broke out of its enclosure at the circus.

What about these headlines "Dunolly A Ghost Town??" or "Waking Dunolly's Ghosts". Have you seen any lately in our town? Dunolly and district towns have always enjoyed a little entertainment and this headline comes from a show performed in Tarnagulla based on Charlie Chaplin – "The Little Tramp in Tarnation".

Two articles relate to vegetation outside the normal horticultural setting. One is – "Hanging Garden's Gone". The article goes on to explain – "At long last the 'Hanging Garden's of Dunolly', which have been occupying the spouting on the high roof of the Town Hall on the south side are gone." Seems someone was finally willing to climb up and rid the hall of its wonderful weeds. The next headline in this category goes to "Tracy's Weed a Winner – Tracy Snow was delighted when her dutch elm weed was judged the best weed in Dunolly."

The list of headlines could go on forever but here are two less savoury ones – "Culprits Caught in Church", no, they were not praying to the Lord, they were

stealing the stained glass windows of the disused church. The second is, "Sewerage Row Bubbles Over". One can only hope that is all that is bubbling over.

The Welcome Records' contribution to the new millennium was to produce a free, special edition of the paper bound in a yellow cover to celebrate 1 January 2000.

All volunteer organisations experience constant changes in staff and *The Welcome Record* is no different. When people change jobs, move house or just retire to their private ventures numbers in these volunteer organisations drop, sometimes by such alarming rates that the organisation begins to struggle. And of course *The Welcome Record* could not exist without these volunteers so it is continually recruiting new volunteers and advertisers. As *The Welcome Record* approaches twenty years of continuous production (June 1987-June 2007) and an overall 28 years in production, the support from all members of the community is more important than ever. Times are tough on the land, our lives are busier and we need to rely on this important and valuable source of information and communication. A community paper keeps a community together.

Over the years there have been many mistakes and problems with production.

Here is an editorial note explaining one such error.

'LETTER FROM AN EDITOR'

'LETTER FROM AN EDITOR'

Unlike some pages in last week's Welcome Record the repeated title is a deliberate mistake.

The biggest problem is that this time there is no-one else to blame. Over the years mistakes are made – misspelled words, wrong dates and occasionally even articles with t definite physical slant. All those things can be placed on someone else's plate. There are usually enough gaps in the chain of production for blame to be apportioned without actually finding the culprit. Not this time though.

Two Master sheets were printed incorrectly, put on one side and replaced by two correct ones. Unfortunately the correct ones were then destroyed making last week's edition a genuine collectors' item. Unfortunately two advertisers missed out but you have to admit that the repeated articles were worth reading twice.

Anyway it's no use crying over spilt milk though I did kick myself a great deal. Mea Culpa, maxima culpa even.
Brian."

THE WELCOME RECORD CONTINUES

So an apt place to conclude the current history, but not the final story of *The*

Welcome Record is in the words of Helen Jesser:

"The Welcome Record is a wonderful bush telegraph! It brings us tales of flavours, smells and noises from far away places, drawing us into family lives, as contributors travel".

And Ken Peake:

I LUVS THE WELCOME RECORD

Say I luvs the Welcome Record
It gives me life a lift,
The articles and little snips
Is surely a worthwhile gift
I luvs the little garden bits
The poems that I see
The useful ads with much, much more
Yes it really does suit me.

The news about the carrying on
Of the Council's tommy rot
The footy news and the netball
The Welcome Record's got the lot
The sad line of obituaries
Sometimes it makes me frown
But when all is said and done
It's about Dunolly town.

The news we never hear elsewhere
It's about us common folk
And in depth look at you and me
Say can't we take a joke.
So I think I luvs The Welcome Record
Coz it's surely is the best
And life would be dull without it
It's out in front of all the rest.

THE WELCOME RECORD

DUNOLLY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWS

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THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS
IS IN OUR CHILDREN

(Children from Dunolly Neighbourhood Centre playgroup)